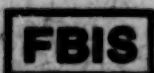


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14 December 1979

Latin America Report

No. 2086



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FINANCE MINISTER UNVEILS NATIONAL BUDGET

FLO22039 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 28 Nov 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Finance Minister Arthur Hanna today unveiled a \$299 million budget with heavy emphasis on social services, health, tourism, police and defence as part of government's avowed policy of social revolution for the '80s.

Mr Hanna spoke for two hours and disclosed that up to September this year his forecast of a budget surplus was "above expectations." "Up to the end of September revenues exceeded recurrent expenditures (excluding debt repayment) by \$21.1 million compared to a surplus of \$2.2 million for the same period last year," he said.

Next year, Mr Hanna forecasts a "healthy surplus" of nearly \$10 million with \$208,600,000 being the estimated revenue and expenditure being \$198,600,000. And he promised no additional taxes except for the business and professional licence expected in a few weeks.

Chairing the house meeting was Deputy Speaker Henry Pown. House Speaker Sir Clifford Darling is away on honeymoon.

Mr Hanna said "this budget clearly is designed to take into account the goals which the government has set, and, in particular, it is geared to give real meaning and impetus to the social revolution."

"The emphasis, through increased and in some cases, new allocations, has been placed on health and other social services, infrastructures such as roads, water, electricity and housing."

The allocation for the social services department has been increased in the budget from \$1.9 million to \$3.9 million--an increase of over 103 per cent. The allocation for health has been increased from \$27.9 million to \$33. million (18.3 percent).

Mr Hanna said that in terms of the allocation of budget funds "education still leads the way with \$50.8 million, an increase of \$5 million (11 percent). Health is next with an allocation of \$33 million, an increase of \$5.1 million (18.3 percent)."

The Ministry of Tourism follows with an allocation of \$18.36 million, an increase of \$3.4 million or 23.1 per cent. This is followed by the police department with an allocation of \$15 million, being an increase of \$1.1 million (8.6 percent). This is followed by the Ministry of Defence with \$5.6 million, up \$1.8 million or 50.4 per cent and the social services department with \$3.86 million, an increase of \$1.96 million (103.6 percent).

Mr Hanna said that servicing the public debt had increased to \$41.95 million--up \$3.7 million (9.8 percent). It has become the second highest item of expenditure in the budget behind the education budget allocation.

And he told the house that he "proposed no additional tax measures. The business and professional licence fees, budgeted for in 1979 will be implemented in 1980 and I propose to proceed with the reintroduction of a revised bill within the next few weeks."

He said "our task ahead for the 1980s will be to continue to strengthen and sustain the momentum of employment, economic growth and stability, to come to grips with our intensified social programmes and sustain our cultural heritage."

Mr Hanna said that despite the impact of adverse world economic developments, particularly the high rate of world inflation and sharp hike in oil prices, the upswing in the Bahamian economy noticed since the end of 1977 continued during 1979.

The external reserves of the country had risen to a new high of \$110.8 million in 1979 and the country's balance of payments position "continues to be favourable overall."

[FLO22240] He forecast a 10 per cent rise in the cost of living by the end of the year, brought about mainly by the hike in the price of oil.

But building construction was up appreciably with total values of permits amounting to \$50.6 million. While building starts amounted to \$33 million and completions at \$15.4 million.

With this had come increased employment, claimed Mr Hanna, with 75,637 employed in September 1979 compared with 60,183 in April 1976--an increase of over 25 per cent.

Mr Hanna spoke of government's commitment of self-sufficiency in agriculture "to the fullest extent possible" in the 80s and gave as example an increase from \$10 million to \$18 million in agricultural production in the last five years. And, he said, agricultural exports had doubled to \$2 million since 1976.

And in the region of fisheries, government, with the assistance of the food and agricultural organisation of the UN had implemented projects which had

increased the industry's manpower. "Whereas in 1974 there were 85 motor vessels by 1979 there were approximately 158 engaged in fishing activities," said Mr Hanna.

"The government is convinced that orderly development of the fishing industry will provide more job opportunities and at the same time strengthen the economy. Evidence of the government's faith in this development is shown by the loan agreement signed with the Inter-American Development Bank in May of this year for \$5.6 million.

In the field of education Mr Hanna said that government would make an announcement shortly concerning the director of technical and industrial training programme for the technical and training council programme which will train "on a crash basis" youngsters in necessary skills and trades.

And he promised that government would "commit a greater amount of its resources to the maintenance of its physical plants in order to reduce learning hours now lost because of various inadequacies in this area."

"The adequate provision of a proper quality of core supplies in all public schools throughout the Bahamas will be a priority so as to ensure that both teacher and students are equipped with the basic necessary tools to carry out the functions of teaching and learning.

Notice was also served on teachers without "the necessary degree of concentration" in or subjects they are expected to teach. "This came about," said Mr Hanna, "because of our efforts to provide as many Bahamian teachers as possible and as quickly as possible. These mistakes will no longer be repeated...and such persons will no longer be allowed to teach in these schools.

But he said that in future "greater attention will be given to the cultural aspects of our national development. Drama, music, and artistic creativity will be promoted and encouraged."

Tourism had still been the driving force of our economy and income had reached \$495 million this year. As a result, said Mr Hanna, he had allocated an extra \$3.2 million to the tourism budget" and during the year I further decided that the tourism effort needed additional support and allocated an extra \$1 million to augment the Ministry of Tourism's budget."

In the police force, Mr Hanna said the force will be increased by one hundred constables and 37 supervisory personnel ranging in rank from sergeant to chief inspector next year

Furthermore "more than \$390,000 will be allocated for the purchase of new transport equipment for the force." A further 866,406 is to be spent on reequipping and upgrading the fire service.

OFFICIALS MURDERED BY GUERRILLA GROUPS

Kidnaped Officials Murdered

PA052200 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Monteria, Colombia--Two officials of the autonomous regional corporation of Sinu and San Jorge valleys and a representative of the government ministry's Indian Affairs Commission in Cordoba have been assassinated by leftist guerrillas of the self-styled Popular Liberation Army (EPL).

The three victims--Sergio Correa, Armando Pupo and Jairo Solano--were kidnaped on 14 November while sailing along Esmeralda River on a small boat on their way to inspect the site where the Urrea Dam will be built. Regular troops carrying out policing operations found the bodies this morning, buried near Tierralta Municipality. Apparently, the three officials were shot to death a few days after being kidnaped because their remains show an advanced stage of decomposition, reporter Francisco Mendoza has reported.

Sergio Correa was district chief at the corporation, Armando Pupo was a mechanic and Jairo Solano represented the Finance Ministry's Indian Affairs Commission in Cordoba Department.

On 1 December the EPL attacked and seized an electrical power relay campsite in Chigorodo, on the border between Cordoba and Antioquia, and after holding 50 workers hostages, warned it will not permit the construction of the Urrea Dam to be financed with Soviet aid. The bodies of the three men, kidnaped and murdered by the EPL, will be brought this afternoon to Tierralta.

Regular troops are conducting intense operations in Alto Sinu region trying to locate the guerrillas.

San Vicente Mayor Killed

PA052200 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Neiva, Colombia--Army Sgt Jose Forero Ibanez, military mayor of San Vicente del Caguan Municipality, has been shot to death, apparently by guerrillas. The incident took place last night, while the official was resting at home, in the municipality, Caqueta intendance.

According to Ninth Brigade Commander Colonel Zapata Velez, the military mayor was shot pointblank several times. The assassination was presumably committed by the guerrilla groups which in the past few months have been active in the Caqueta area.

CSO: 3010

DEFENSE MINISTRY TRANSFERS, PROMOTIONS

PA290316 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Nov 79 PA

[Text] The Defense Ministry has made many changes and transfers in the high-ranking military commands. The decrees issued today also include many promotions. The officers promoted according to decree 29-13 are the following: Gen Fernando Landazabal Reyes promoted to the General Armed Forces Command as chief of the Joint Staff; Maj Gen Bernardo Lema Enao to the Army Command General Headquarters as army inspector general; Maj Gen Guillermo de Jesus del Rio to the Army Command General Headquarters as deputy chief to the Joint Chief of the General Staff; Brig Gen Oscar Botero Restrepo to the Military Forces General Headquarters of the General Command and Brig Gen Ediberto Arias Martinez to the General Secretariat of the National Defense Ministry as deputy secretary general.

The government has also made the following changes in the brigade commands: Brig Gen Joaquín Gustavo Gomez Villamizar to commander of the 7th Brigade; Gen Luis Enrique Rodriguez Botiva to commander of 9th Brigade; Gen Oscar Mario Alfredo Avila to director of the Marcos Fidel Suarez Air Force Academy; Gen Alfredo Ortega Caicedo to commander of the Air Force Combat Command No 1; Gen Gilberto Franco Vasquez to the Military Forces General Headquarters General Command; Brig Gen Jose Anuelco Mejia Enao to commander of the 5th Brigade; Gen Jimmy Millier Rocha Rubio to commander of the 7th Brigade; Gen Francisco Hernandez Diaz San Miguel to commander of the 8th Brigade and Rear Adm Rafael Enrique Grau Araujo to commander of the Southern Unified Command.

Decree 18 issued also today ordered the following transfers: Gen Jose Maria Villarrial Labarca, from commander of the 2d Brigade to the National Defense Superior Council as its permanent executive secretary; Gen Carlos Guillermo Narvaez Casallas from the Military Forces General Headquarters General Command to commander of the 2d Brigade commander; Gen Rafael Samudio Molina from commander of the 5th brigade to director of the Military Academy; Gen Ricardo Jose Medina Escobar from Civil Defense Directorate to commander of the 1st Brigade; Gen Luis Alberto Andrade Anaya from commander of the 7th Brigade to the Military Forces General Headquarters General Command and Gen Diego Alfonso Gonzalez Oca, from the General Secretariat of the Defense Ministry to commander of the 6th Brigade.

The Defense Ministry according to Decree 29-13, also dated today promoted the following officers: Maj Gen Fernando Landazabal Reyes was promoted to general and Brig Gen Fernando Bernardo Lema Enao to major general as of 1 December.

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

TREASURY EMPLOYEES OCCUPY CATHEDRAL--Ibague--Fifteen Treasury-Ministry employees occupied the cathedral here today to demand that the government solve the labor conflict they have been facing for more than 3 months. The workers arrived at the church at 0730 and began to harangue the people after the Mass ended. Upon learning of this, Ibague archbishop Msgr Jose Joaquin Flores Hernandez ordered the closing of the cathedral and suspended all services until it had been evacuated. The strikers were still at the church at noon today. They are wearing t-shirts with labor movement slogans. [Text] [PA261859 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Nov 79 PA]

GOVERNOR REPLACED--Bogota--The resignation of the liberal governor of Quindio, Mario Gomez Ramirez, was reportedly due to pressure from liberal Senator [name indistinct] Lopez Lopez, according to informed sources. Gomez has been replaced by Victor Arbelaes, mayor of Armenia. [PA0121235 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Nov 79 PA]

M-19 LEADER ARRESTED--Jorge (Cujas), an M-19 leader, was captured as he applied for a job at the Colombian petroleum enterprise in Barrancabermeja. The guerrilla was being sought since he is one of those being tried in the court-martial of 220 M-19 members. [PA012135 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 30 Nov 79 PA]

FLOOD DAMAGE REPORT--Bogota--The Colombian Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Land Conditioning has reported that some 8,568 hectares in the 11 irrigation districts managed by the institute were affected when the Bogota River flooded. [PA012135 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Nov 79 PA]

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS APPOINTED--Colombian constitutional reforms have resulted in the resignations of several government officials. They have been replaced by: Carlos Ossa as deputy minister of agriculture, (Saulo) Arboleda as deputy development minister and Benjamin Lopez as presidential secretary general. [PA301438 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Nov 79 PA]

NEW M-19 STUDENT CELL--Bogota--Military intelligence has for several weeks been investigating a large number of students, mostly from the National University, after learning of the existence of the "Nicolas Command" of the 19 April Movement [M-19]. Reliable sources said that approximately 3 months ago the authorities learned of the founding of the armed branch of the terrorist organization, which supposedly honors the memory of Uruguayan guerrilla Jose Francisco Lopez Guevara, "Nicolas." "Nicolas" died mysteriously early this year when troops tried unsuccessfully to rescue the kidnaped former president of the Texas Oil Company, Nicolas Escobar Soto. The "Nicolas Command," made up mostly of young students, was first reported in action when it attacked a police station in the capital, stole weapons and painted antigovernment slogans on the walls. In the Escobar Soto Case, military intelligence was able to obtain most of the information to start eliminating the M-19 Movement. [Text] [PA291535 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Nov 79 PA]

ELECTORAL REGISTRY OFFICE ATTACKED--Bogota--An urban commando of the self-styled Popular Liberation Army [EPL] attacked an electoral registry office in southern Bogota this morning. Three men and a woman took 300 identification cards and destroyed the registry lists. The armed guerrilla group fled after painting EPL graffiti on the walls of the building. [Text] [PA041857 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Dec 79 PA]

SOVIET-FUNDED DAM SITE ATTACKED--Bogota, 3 Dec (AFP)--Maoist guerrillas have opposed the construction of a dam with Soviet assistance by taking over the worksite in northwestern Colombia. A Presidential Palace press release reveals that on 2 December about 30 men belonging to the Marxist-Leninist Popular Liberation Army (EPL) occupied the camp of the company that is conducting preliminary studies for the Urra Dam in Antioquia Department, about 700 km from Bogota. Fifth workers were held hostage for 24 hours and harangued by the insurgents who announced that the pro-Chinese communist party will not permit the construction of the dam, a good part of the funds for which were obtained from the Soviet Government. The communique adds that the guerrillas waited until the helicopter bringing food supplies arrived on Sunday, stole the food, looted the camp and burned the Iroquois plane of the Helicol firm. The communique does not say whether there were any victims of the EPL incident, the first of its kind in Colombia, which indicates that ideological differences between Moscow and Beijing have taken root here. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0044 GMT 4 Dec 79 PA]

COST OF LIVING FIGURES--The National Administrative Department of Statistics today reported that the cost of living increased by 1.9 percent for employees and 2.6 percent for workers in November. According to its figures, the inflation rate during the 11 months of 1979 was 24.3 percent for employees and 27.8 percent for workers. [PA052300 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Dec 79 PA]

COFFEE PRODUCERS' CONGRESS--Bogota--The country's coffee sector has closed its national congress fully convinced that Colombia is about to lose its coffee production leadership due to the government's intransigence. After 3 months of heated controversy, the coffee producers and the government are still unable to reach an agreement on domestic prices. The producers have described this as the beginning of the sector's decline, which might lead to Colombia's loss of its place as the world's second major coffee producer and exporter. In its final document, the coffee congress predicted the sector's future, with the coffee federation adopting a monopolistic position and private producers finding it impossible to return to the international market. According to coffee leader Leonidas London, coffee producers hope the finance minister will understand the reasons explained at the congress, which in the future will be supported by the National Coffee Committee. [Text] [PA052000 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Dec 79 PA]

COFFEE PRODUCTION DROP--National coffeegrowers today forecast a nearly 20-percent production drop as of January. The country will stop exporting approximately 2 million 60-kg bags of coffee. Only 9 million bags will be produced. The country needs to produce more than 12 million bags to meet foreign commitments and local demand. [PA031933 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Dec 79 PA]

CSO: 3010

CUBA'S CANDIDACY TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT WEIGHED

Havana GRAMMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 25 Nov 79 p 12

[Text] What Is It and Why Is It Important?

The Security Council is one of the most important UN agencies, and, according to the provisions of the UN charter, it has primary responsibility for upholding international peace and security. On signing the Charter, UN member states agreed that the Security Council should act on their behalf in fulfilling its main task of safeguarding peace.

In order to promote lasting peace and security, the Security Council seeks, by means of negotiation, investigation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement or other means, to solve all substantial international disputes which could give rise to conflict. If those measures do not prove successful, the Council can adopt sanctions which do not involve the use of force, such as a total or partial cut in economic, maritime, air, postal or other kind of relations, along with a break in diplomatic relations. It can also adopt measures which involve the use of armed force to implement its decisions that uphold peace and international security.

It is the world body in charge of safeguarding peace and the only one which can enact sanctions against states—which is why it is so important.

Who Are Its Members and How Does It Adopt Decisions?

There are 15 members on the Security Council. Five of them are permanent: the Soviet Union, France, England, the United States and China. The others are not permanent and are elected by the General Assembly for a period of two years; five of them are replaced every year.

In order to ensure adequate distribution by geographic region, the UN decided that the ten seats for nonpermanent members should be divided up as follows: five for Asia and Africa, two for Latin America, two for Western Europe and other developed capitalist countries and one for Eastern Europe.

On procedural questions such as approval of an agenda for meetings, the decisions of the Council can be adopted by the vote of any nine members. Decisions on all other matters, that is, those having to do with the functions assigned to the Council by the UN Charter, also require nine affirmative votes but these must include all the permanent members. If one of the permanent members opposes a measure, it is vetoed even if it has the support of all other members.

Representation on the Security Council is directly related to the division of the world into two opposing social systems, socialism and capitalism, and the power of veto makes possible cooperation in the quest for peace without giving either side an advantage.

The end of the colonial era and the shift in the balance of forces on the world scene in favor of the forces of progress have meant that, in the last few years, the Council's decisions have increasingly favored the struggle against colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, Zionism and racism and supported the right of the peoples to freely determine their own future.

What Latin American Countries Have Sat on the Security Council?

In the last 34 years, from 1946 to 1979, Latin America's seats on the Security Council have been occupied as follows:

1946	Brazil and Mexico
1947	Brazil and Colombia
1948	Argentina and Colombia
1949	Argentina and Cuba
1950	Ecuador and Cuba
1951	Ecuador and Brazil
1952	Chile and Brazil
1953	Chile and Colombia
1954	Brazil and Colombia
1955	Brazil and Peru
1956	Cuba and Peru
1957	Cuba and Colombia
1958	Panama and Colombia
1959	Panama and Argentina
1960	Ecuador and Argentina
1961	Ecuador and Chile
1962	Venezuela and Chile
1963	Venezuela and Brazil
1964	Bolivia and Brazil
1965	Bolivia and Uruguay
1966	Argentina and Uruguay
1967	Argentina and Brazil
1968	Paraguay and Brazil

1969 Paraguay and Colombia
 1970 Nicaragua and Colombia
 1971 Nicaragua and Argentina
 1972 Panama and Argentina
 1973 Panama and Peru
 1974 Costa Rica and Peru
 1975 Costa Rica and Guyana
 1976 Panama and Guyana
 1977 Panama and Venezuela
 1978 Bolivia and Venezuela
 1979 Bolivia and Jamaica
 1980 Jamaica and ...

A glance at the list shows that the countries that have most often represented Latin America are Brazil (five times), Argentina (four times) and Colombia (four times). It is also clear that most of the time the seats have been held by South American nations: 25 times as compared with only ten for the Central American and Caribbean countries.

In the period from 1964 to 1969, no Central American or Caribbean country held a seat, and there have been 17 occasions when both Latin American seats were held by South American countries; on nine of these occasions the countries in question border on each other.

Even in 1978, the Latin American seats were held by Bolivia and Venezuela, both in South America.

The only Caribbean island countries ever to have held seats are Jamaica and Cuba, and if we add Guyana, which is also a member of the Caribbean family, we can see that they have only represented Latin America in seven of the 34 years in question.

When and How Did Cuba Present Its Candidacy?

In the last 22 years Cuba has not held a Security Council seat in spite of the fact that it has maintained an active and consistent policy on behalf of the objectives and principles of the UN and has helped uphold peace and international security.

Cuba's international positions are well known as evinced by its support for peoples struggling against colonialism and racism in Africa, Asia and Latin America; support for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people; efforts to halt the arms race; resolute support for the developing countries' drive to obtain sovereignty over their natural resources and do away with the prevailing international economic relations, which are unjust and unequal. Thus, in October of 1977, our delegation at the UN informed the Latin American Group that Cuba was going to present its candidacy for the seat that Bolivia will vacate on January 1, 1980. On that occasion, no other country expressed interest in being elected to the Council in 1979 or objected to or had reservations about Cuba's candidacy. At all other meetings of the

Latin American Group held afterwards where electoral questions were discussed, Cuba reiterated its intention to be a candidate, and although other countries such as Mexico, Guyana and Peru announced they would run in 1980, 1981 or 1982, in the period from October 1977 to the spring of 1978, no country indicated it would run against Cuba.

The Latin American Group decides on its candidates by consensus, and when there are two or more candidates with roughly equal support it is unable to do so.

On the other hand, every sovereign state which fulfills its UN obligations can be a candidate, and the regional groups can't prevent it from doing so.

We might also mention that the Latin American Group has always viewed the region as a single entity and there have never before been subregional divisions.

Who Is Trying to Prevent Cuba From Sitting on the Security Council?

Cuba presented its candidacy to the Latin American Group first of all because it is the region which we rightfully seek to represent. It also decided to be a candidate because it feels that its contribution to the work of the Council will be much greater if its term coincides with its chairmanship of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

On two previous occasions, 1949-50 and 1956-57, that is, when Cuba was ruled by cliques at the service of the United States and by a bloody dictatorship, there was no objection to Cuba's candidacy; on the contrary, it was supported by the United States and its closest allies.

However, now that the voice of an independent Cuba which is aware of its duties towards the non-aligned and other developing countries would be heard at the Security Council, our candidacy has led the State Department, the representatives of Peking and other great powers allied with the United States to initiate a frenzied campaign to block it.

The United States dreams of the times when only countries that it approved of could be seated on the Security Council and when the international balance of forces did not permit any really independent country to represent Latin America on the Council. There have been 28 ballots cast so far, and it is clear that Cuba has broad support at the UN. Only the deliberate obstruction by the United States, China and other states has prevented Cuba's election, posing a threat to the democratic methods provided for in the Charter, the General Assembly resolutions and the agreements and policies backed by all states which guarantee the functioning of the UN.

PEKING'S MACHINATIONS ANALYZED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 25 Nov 79 p 12

[Article by Luis M. Arce]

[Text] The Chinese Government has dramatically appealed to the people to save on oil. According to Deputy Prime Minister Kang Shi En, the consumption of natural fuels will be cut by 15 percent for every citizen.

The announcement came as a surprise to all Chinese consumers who have grown used to the official propaganda line that boasts that China ranks among the world's first seven oil producers, with good prospects for doing even better in this field.

What's behind the drastic reduction of already significantly low consumption patterns and coming as it did at a time when winter's approach makes the growing demand for oil and coal certain, even if the country's heating system is not a highly developed one and, therefore, not generally available to all citizens? What's the point of reducing the use of oil and coal even further when, according to official reports, new and "brilliant" economic exploits and the discovery of important hydrocarbon deposits are at hand?

While the announcement made by the neofascist Peking leadership is causing the Chinese people considerable worry--particularly as the call for restrictions is accompanied by the announcement of general food price rises--the imperialist circles, in turn, have received the news with undisguised smiles.

It is no secret to anyone that, while basely playing into the hands of the oil transnationals, the fascist Peking regime has for the past few years regularly sold the country's hydrocarbons at half the prices set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

This is just one more concession that the Peking leadership has granted to the imperialists in exchange for the Western powers' political and economic support.

The Peking expansionists have, besides, made other large-scale concessions to these transnationals concerning prospecting and mining in vast regions of the country.

In China, the oil consortia of the United States, Western Europe and Japan have succeeded in pooling their financial resources as a means to counter OPEC's oil policy. China is being milked in this accord since in order to induce those consortia to make the substantial investments required in the country Peking agreed to have the greater part of the shares remain in the hands of the foreign entrepreneurs.

It is interesting to see how the Chinese regime allotted the country's oil regions among the transnationals. Japan got the region close to the Zhuanjiang River on the South China Sea, plus the Bay of Bohai. To British Petroleum (United Kingdom) and the Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (France) went the Yellow Sea oil deposits.

However, the region closest to Vietnam, including the Gulf of Tonkin deposits and the area around Vietnam's Hoang Sa (Paracel) Islands (that China occupied by force in 1974) was set aside for the U.S. transnationals.

This prompted the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to protest and issue a warning that all Western transnationals engaging in prospecting and mining work for China in areas under Vietnamese sovereignty will have to face the consequences deriving from such illegal activities.

The practical results of this "philanthropic" behavior of the Chinese Government vis-a-vis the transnational corporations can be readily seen. Just recently the Margaret Thatcher administration announced Britain's readiness to sell Peking close to 100 vertical takeoff Harrier fighter planes plus any other war materiel that the Chinese expansionists might be interested in.

The oil lobbyists in Washington are making efforts to grant China "most-favored nation" status in trade while the Pentagon chief, Harold Brown, is getting ready to honor China's minister of defense's invitation to visit Peking in January for one week.

There hardly seems to be anyone left who doubts that the Chinese Mandarins' betrayal has gone to the extreme of selling their soul to accomplish their strategic goals. The oil concessions to the imperialists are not to be seen only in the context of Peking's opposition to OPEC. They must also be related to the Chinese leadership's expansionist plans in the area and the need to find potential allies for this venture.

The Chinese people have already begun to suffer the consequences of such a policy of surrender, and the measures announced attest to that. One wonders if those who have today decided to fatten their coffers under the shadow of Peking's betrayal will go on holding the Chinese cards marked with dangerous war-mongering ideas. After all, those cards have been stained by the defeat of China's first expansionist attempts in Southeast Asia and the repudiation of the entire progressive world.

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS WITH INTERNATIONALIST TEACHERS

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 25 Nov 79 p 1

[Article by Gabriel Molina]

[Text] It was a relaxed Saturday night at the Santiago Figuerola School, outside of San Antonio de los Baños, where the second contingent of 554 young teachers are being briefed on their lofty international mission in Nicaragua. Some of the youngsters were dancing to the music of a combo while others were sitting around talking and enjoying the scene. Only 36 hours more and the first group would be leaving for the sister nation.

Suddenly, a car stopped at the entrance to the school and Fidel stepped out with a big smile on his face.

What followed can only be described as an explosion of joy. When the order was given to gather in the auditorium, everybody followed suit and within minutes the place was packed to capacity and many of the students had to remain standing.

When Fidel walked down the only aisle not filled with people on his way to the stage, we were reminded of a night in January 1959. The effect was just as impressive.

Miriam Perez, a 26-year-old member of the contingent, stated: "I'm so thrilled I'm shaking all over."

"Why?" she was asked.

"Because Fidel's here with us," she exclaimed as she went on clapping and shouting.

The 554 teachers (275 of them are women) attended a series of lectures in the school for several days. This was the second contingent to be grouped at the school and started to fly to Managua in groups of 100, on November 19. There, they will join the 530 others who are already at work in the improvised classrooms of rural Nicaragua.

Ninety-six of these youngsters come from Pinar del Rio; 59 from Havana province; 147 from City of Havana; 44 from Cienfuegos; ten from Ciego de Avila;

50 from Las Tunas; 99 from Guantanamo; and 50 from Granma. Two hundred and ninety-one of them (52.53 percent) are single.

Fidel was accompanied on the rostrum by Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice-president of the Council of Ministers, who had come with Fidel; Raisia Tolon, principal of the school; and Fernando Ruiz, vice-principal.

The place was so crowded that those nearest Fidel were practically on top of him.

When the applause finally died down, a very relaxed Fidel picked up the microphone and addressed the audience.

"Let's have a little talk," he said. "The last time we were here to say good-bye to the first contingent, we came earlier and we were accompanied by two leaders of the Sandinista National Liberation Front. Today is Saturday, we've had a very busy day and it's quite late--10:25 p.m.--so we'll make it short.

"It's gratifying to know that our vanguard is already in Nicaragua, working in several provinces, and we feel that the internationalist mission you and they are going to carry out is a very important one.

Fidel went on to say that the Sandinista Revolution was in the stage of national reconstruction and that it had the support of everybody in Nicaragua, adding that the collaboration of Latin America, where many countries had organized an anti-intervention front, had also been obtained.

He said that this resistance movement in Latin America had frustrated the interventionist plans of the U.S. Government and that for the first time the United States had been unable to impose its policy on the OAS, pointing out that the purpose behind that policy was to save Somoza's army and prevent its disintegration.

He added that it was undeniable that the Sandinistas were the main force, that they had succeeded in disarming the Somoza army and organizing one of a different type. "There's no danger of a coup d'etat a la Chile or a la Bolivia, no danger of Pinochet-style tricks, because in Nicaragua the people have both the weapons and the revolutionary ideas.

"There are other Latin American countries that will surely benefit from the anti-imperialist feeling that has arisen on the continent.

"The people of Nicaragua are very revolutionary and very radical. In fact, the Sandinistas have to keep calling for moderation.

"The country has suffered a great deal of destruction and they are in need of widespread international cooperation. Remember that on July 26 we made an appeal, a challenge, to send aid to Nicaragua. It's true that aid is being sent, but it's not enough to meet the country's needs.

"A true, radical revolution is taking place there."

Fidel went on to say that Nicaragua's population was 25 percent that of Cuba and that the country was surrounded by neighbors, some of whom are not too friendly, and that was why Nicaragua must become strong and needed help. He said that Cuba could not offer much material aid but could offer human resources, primarily for education and public health and for agricultural and fishing development.

Fidel said that when the Cuban Revolution emerged victorious there was no such experience in other parts of the continent. Many errors were made and many victories scored, which the Nicaraguan revolutionaries could profit from, for example, to cut the infant mortality rate from 100 per 1,000 live births to 30 and thus save more lives in a few years than all the lives snuffed out by Somoza. He went on to say that it was quite possible that the Nicaraguans would need as many as 400 or 500 doctors from Cuba, that Cuba was in a position to provide because very soon the number of doctors graduating in Cuba every year would be greater than that of all the doctors in Cuba in 1959.

He said that the picture was similar in Cuban education, considering that at the triumph of the Revolution there were 10,000 teachers who had no classrooms to work in and hundreds of thousands of children with no schools to go to. Teacher training schools were set up, first in the mountain areas and later in the cities. "The teacher who is willing to go to the countryside has awareness, even though he or she is brought up in the city." The idea was to bring education to the rural areas, where there was greater need for it. He pointed out that the Revolution created 10,000 classrooms in a single day. Fidel went on to say that as a result of the rapid growth of the school-age population most of the teachers in 1970 were not graduates, adding that in 1970 all teachers are expected to have a teacher's diploma. However, he said, should international aid postpone reaching this objective for a year or two, the cause makes the delay worthwhile. Today, he said, 50,000 are training to be intermediate education teachers and 30,000 students are studying to be elementary school teachers.

"We'll always need teachers," Fidel commented, "but we have made progress."

Fidel explained that there were hundreds of thousands of children in Nicaragua who have no schools to go to and that the illiteracy rate stood at 60 to 70 percent. He said that it was imperative that every child have a chance to attend school, even if some of the classrooms were set up under a tree or inside a hut, because the most important thing was that every child attend school. He pointed out that this was what made the internationalist mission important and that the best way to gauge that importance was to imagine what it would have meant to Cuba to receive the help of 5,000 revolutionary teachers in the early years of the Revolution.

"It's a cultural and revolutionary mission that entails difficulties and risks," he remarked.

He warned the students not to speak of socialism but rather to set an example by their behavior, their dedication and their efficiency; in other words, by action and example; not by words. "You will be working in the rural areas, where you're most needed, and in some instances you will be in isolated places, but you must never lose contact among yourselves."

He went on to say that Cuba was not charging for this service and that the people of Nicaragua would put the teachers up in their homes. Many families, he said, have expressed their desire to house you in their homes and consider it an honor. Our teachers will be in Nicaragua for two years without any cost to that country.

Fidel urged the young teachers to study the history and geography of Nicaragua. He went on to say that if the imperialists tried to sow terror they would face up to what little risk this implies. "Instead of discouraging you it would serve as added stimulus, wouldn't it?" he asked.

The immediate response was a long round of applause.

Fidel said that he held them all in high regard for their special virtues since they were a group specially selected for their mission. "However," he said, "you must do even better, be twice as dedicated to your work as you are in Cuba; a mistake here is not the same as a mistake there, because you will be representing our country, the Cuban Revolution and socialism, and if you make a mistake there it's ten times worse than if you had made it in Cuba. This is why, no matter how good, how valuable you are, you must be twice as good, valuable and efficient.

"The seed you plant in the fertile soil of the Revolution will be extremely fruitful. The most important thing in your mission is to set an example."

Fidel reiterated his confidence in the attainment of this goal, adding that Cuba had a great source of material, because, in spite of all the requirements regarding age, years of experience, diploma, etc., more than 29,000 teachers had applied for the mission in Nicaragua. This shows, he commented, that regardless of the faults and weaknesses that exist in our country, there are great virtues in our people that are being demonstrated by the fact that Cuban men and women, inspired by their revolutionary feelings, are now working in 28 countries.

"You reflect and represent the people of Cuba!" Fidel exclaimed.

He told the young teachers that they were the envy of thousands of other Cubans for having been chosen to go help a sister nation, a noble Latin American people who had struggled for and won their freedom. "This experience will enrich you spiritually as teachers, revolutionaries and individuals," he said, "and your children, your husbands, your wives and your parents will be proud of you."

Regarding the average age of the group--26--he said they had reached full maturity, adding that he was 26 when the attack on the Moncada Garrison was carried out.

"On saying good-bye to you, my thoughts go back to the days of the Moncada Garrison, the "Granma" and the Sierra Maestra. You are better prepared and have greater backing than we had. It's quite an accomplishment to get together 1,200 teachers like you," he said.

He said that considering the short distance between Cuba and Nicaragua he hoped that the teachers would be able to spend their vacation in Cuba and he concluded by saying, "I have complete faith in you. I congratulate you for your decision and I'm sure that you will be worthy representatives of our homeland, education and socialism."

On his way out of the auditorium, Fidel, surrounded by teachers, apologized for not being able to attend the cultural event they had held, adding that he would like very much to see a sample of it, so one of the young teachers, Jose Pena Fiallo, recited some verses he had composed for the day of their departure. After that, a huge chorus sang a song to the music of "Cuba, How Beautiful You Are," one of whose lines went as follows:

"Nicaragua is a flower that grows in the vast plains. And we will follow the example set by Sandino..."

CSO: 3020

IMPERIALIST PHILOSOPHY OF DEFEAT EVALUATED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 25 Nov 79 p 12

[Article by Juan Marrero]

[Text] The imperialists are trying to convince the peoples of the world that they are generous, that they are deeply concerned over the fate of the so-called Third World and that they are anxious to help those peoples in their economic and social development—but it all boils down to a pretty fairy tale. The facts speak for themselves: every time the imperialists hand out some crumbs from their table (an act which is always preceded by a huge propaganda campaign), they do it with the basest political and economic intentions.

Kampuchea is a case in point. The United States contributed to the fund raised thanks to UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to aid the people of Kampuchea, ravaged by hunger and disease as a result of the policy of destruction that the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime practiced for almost four years.

International pressure forced the United States to make the contribution, but it is evident that, with this gesture, the U.S. imperialists are trying to back the counterrevolutionary actions that are being carried out against Kampuchea from Thailand. The United States insisted on the establishment of a lifeline from Thailand to Kampuchea, and an official U.S. mission visited Thailand a short time ago "to study the problems regarding food and medical supplies to Kampuchea." The place that the mission visited was the border with Kampuchea, an area being used for acts of provocation by the Pol Pot gangs armed and fed by China and Thailand.

Furthermore, in the last few weeks the United States stepped up military aid to Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries, while Peking launched a slander campaign about a "Vietnamese threat" to those countries. On October 3, two U.S. Air Force cargo planes loaded with howitzers, field guns, submachine guns and other war materiel landed in Thailand and two days later a freighter carrying 15 M-48 tanks, of a lot of 150 purchased in the United States, arrived in the port of Bangkok.

It's ridiculous for the United States to try to make anybody believe it's deeply concerned over the people of Kampuchea and the Kampuchean refugees while it goes on arming Southeast Asian countries to the teeth and egging them on to attack the peoples of Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos. On November 1, Richard Holbrooke, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Central Asian and Pacific affairs, promised to step up the sale of arms to Thailand, Singapore and other ASEAN member countries. The announcement was made with satisfaction by the Chinese news agency XINHUA.

What the imperialists and the Chinese are doing in Southeast Asia is creating a climate of tension and preventing the peoples of Indochina from working in peace to reconstruct their countries. The imperialist philosophy of humanitarian aid is a philosophy of deceit. They never do anything unless it's to their benefit, and every time they spend a dollar, it's because they're seeking economic or political gains.

CSO: 3020

CUBA

CUBA'S NEWEST FREIGHTER ARRIVES IN HAVANA

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 25 Nov 79 p 1

[Text] The freighter Pino del Agua, the latest addition to the Mambisa Shipping Lines fleet, arrived in Havana on its maiden voyage on November 16.

The new ship is 149 meters long, 19 meters wide, has a deadweight of 14,854 tons and is powered by an M.A.N. V-shaped 12-cylinder 7500-hp engine. Top speed is 15 knots.

The Pino del Agua has a load capacity of 22,414 cubic meters for bulk cargo and a 21,106-cubic-meter space for crates or as many as 336 20-foot-long containers. It has a range of 12,000 nautical miles and accommodations for a crew of 35.

The new ship brings the total number of vessels operated by Mambisa Shipping Lines to 64, with an overall deadweight of 781,117 tons.

CSO: 3020

'MUJERES' INTERVIEW WITH BEVERLEY MANLEY

Havana GRAMMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 25 Nov 79 p 6

[Interview with Beverley Manley, head of the women's movement of the People's National Party of Jamaica, by MUJERES]

[Text] Beverley Manley, head of the women's movement of the People's National Party and wife of the Jamaican prime minister, granted an interview to MUJERES in which she discussed the work done by the organization on behalf of women in that sister nation.

[Question] How did the women's movement of the PNP get started?

[Answer] The People's National Party started to organize women in 1950 in what was called the auxiliary of the PNP. Following the victorious elections of 1972, in which the head of the PNP, Comrade Michael Manley, was elected prime minister of Jamaica, he asked a group of women to reorganize and reactivate the auxiliary. In 1977 it was turned into the women's movement of the PNP, aimed at helping women join the struggle for economic independence.

Women were no longer satisfied with being called auxiliaries, and they wanted to participate in the full sense of the word. Many of them, thanks to study and activism, had become aware of the role they should play in the confrontation with imperialism, and the movement took on new militancy that year.

Its main objectives are to educate women members of the party and Jamaican women as a whole and to mobilize them to support the actions and advance of democratic socialism; to promote the full participation of women in all aspects of community affairs and international life; to improve the general status of women and provide better job opportunities; to defend the rights of women workers, etc. The movement also devotes special attention to children and helps set up day-care centers and other social institutions such as old people's homes.

During the present government, women have benefited from the enactment of important measures such as those which stipulate equal pay for equal work; the law which sets up a court to handle family matters with the exception of divorce; the law on the status of children aimed at eliminating the second-class legal position of children born out of wedlock; and others.

[Question] What form does the participation of Jamaican women take in economic, political and social affairs?

[Answer] Women have always participated in economic and political activity in one way or the other, but it is only now that they have become truly aware of their rights, and they are making a contribution in fields where they had never before done so. For example, there are 30 women with posts on councils of local government, that is, 13.4 percent of the total. There are women members of Parliament, although the number is not as great as we would like. There are four women in the Senate. Women also play a very important role in the party committees, where, in many cases, they make up 50 percent of the total membership.

Following the victory in 1972, the government began an extraordinary employment program which in the initial stages provided jobs for 11,000 workers in the social sector; 7,000 of them were women, that is, they constituted 64 percent of the beneficiaries of that program. It was an important accomplishment, because previously only five percent of the workers in the social sector were women.

Women are also working in construction for the first time. Many contractors prefer them for their discipline, although their participation is still limited. The brigades of women construction workers have been trained in Cuba. The women's bureau and the women's movement of the PNP are continuing the struggle to get women into fields barred to them previously.

Women have realized that the struggle against imperialism can't be successful until full equality between men and women is achieved. Women do participate but not enough, and we must continue our efforts along these lines.

[Question] Could you tell us about the relationship between the PNP women's movement and the Federation of Cuban Women?

[Answer] We are proud of our relations with the Federation of Cuban Women which have been strengthened over the years. There is a positive exchange between the two organizations. Comrades from the Federation have visited us to help out on different matters and to study the history and culture of our country. We also send women to Cuba for the same reason. Right now, members of our organization are studying at the Federation's cadre school in Havana, and some of our members are on the construction brigades in Cuba.

We feel that relations between the PNP women's movement and the Federation are very important, because we view Cuban women as an example of what a determined people can achieve. There is much in common in our historical and cultural backgrounds, and we see the Cuban Revolution as a ray of hope for developing countries everywhere, especially those that have chosen the noncapitalist path of development.

[This interview was retranslated from the Spanish]

CSO: 3020

LIGHT INDUSTRY ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 25 Nov 79 p 7

[Text] Until 1958: Imperialist Domination and Poverty

Most of Cuba's productive sector looked very bleak in January of 1959. In the case of light industry the few large firms that existed belonged to U.S. corporations and were dependent on imports from the U.S.

Manufactured products from the United States satisfied the demand for durable goods and individual consumer products, but also reinforced consumption patterns that were in the interests of U.S. monopolies.

When the Revolution took over the major means of production it was confronted with prodigious tasks in all areas. In light industry it would focus on those areas where investment had reached a fairly high level.

A good example of U.S. economic penetration can be found in the textile industry where raw materials and other basic resources were imported from the U.S. The same was true of the major part of the technology.

U.S. capital investment was also heavily involved in the soap, detergent and perfume industries. U.S. interests owned the major shoe factories, overshadowing small, inadequately equipped shoe shops that provided but the poorest of livelihoods for a host of small craftsmen.

Nationalization

Nationalization, which finally made the people owners and managers of the country's resources, was to run up against a host of problems in the light industry sector: complete dependence on foreign—especially U.S.—raw materials, obsolete machinery and equipment, concentration of major industries in the capital, and consumption patterns dictated from abroad.

Added to this extremely bleak picture were a great number of small sweatshops and cottage industries, typical of the shoe and textile factories owned by Cubans. With dramatic cutbacks in supplies at a time when broad sectors of the population had new buying power the government had to adapt to the changed situation.

Soon the Revolution would have to confront the effects of a full-scale economic and political blockade that was to have a direct impact on most sectors of the national economy. Once connections with U.S. suppliers were broken, light industry in particular was plagued by problems of repairing obsolete machinery and lack of technical information. Furthermore, expansion of consumption in suburban and rural areas, overall population growth and the general increase in individual purchasing power inevitably put special pressures on all sectors of light industry, the main producer of consumer goods.

Light Industry Today

The Ministry of Light Industry as such was set up by the Revolutionary Government in 1967. From the start its basic objective was to satisfy the ever-growing demand for consumer goods and simultaneously create a surplus for export.

To meet its goals the Ministry has drawn up short- and long-term development plans in the various branches of light industry, especially in textiles and shoe manufacture.

Right now 78 percent of the production of the Ministry of Light Industry is consumer goods and 22 percent intermediate goods.

With the introduction in 1977 of the new Economic Management and Planning System, the Ministry began the prodigious task of structuring its production branches so as to guarantee the highest level of industrial efficiency possible at this time in the development of a socialist society.

Light industry includes six main industrial branches: garments, textiles, leather, paper products, chemicals and furniture.

As the light industry sector is the main producer of consumer goods the Ministry has links with other agencies which it supplies or received raw materials from. The most important are the Ministries of Domestic Trade, Education, Agriculture, Public Health and Construction. There are also similar links among the sectors of the Ministry itself.

In spite of the host of problems it confronts and which account for the low rate of growth, light industry production has been slowly but steadily advancing on all fronts, especially in increased production and industrial efficiency. This has been accomplished thanks to the introduction of new measures, especially work norms and a closer correspondence between salary and labor.

Furthermore, the number of professional technicians has increased and workers in the enterprises have taken courses on the new Economic Management and Planning System.

Garments

The garment industry produces clothes and underwear from knitwear and yardage. Garment production is 25 percent of the Ministry's total production and includes 21 enterprises in eight provinces. Nearly half—47.6 percent—of the enterprises are concentrated in Havana and they account for 64 percent of all production.

The labor force in this branch of light industry is largely made up of women. Out of a total of 25,000 workers, 81 percent are women.

Textiles

Textiles account for 15 enterprises, the predominant ones employing from 500 to over 2,000 workers. The Ariguanabo textile mill has a work force of 4,000. This branch of light industry produces not only cotton and synthetic cloth, but also rope, cord and sacks from sisal and hemp.

The majority of textile mills are in Havana and City of Havana provinces. In general they account for more than 14,000 workers, 33 percent of whom are women.

Furniture

The furniture and related products sector has only eight enterprises in the entire country and makes furniture, mattresses and pencils. It accounts for the smallest share of total light industry production. As local wood is scarce most of the raw materials for this sector are imported from socialist countries. Of its 6,600 workers, 17 percent are women.

Leather Goods

There are 18 national enterprises in the leather sector and they produce leather shoes (90 percent) and plastic shoes, leather and miscellaneous leather goods (10 percent). Of the 17,800 workers in this sector, 37 percent are women.

The basic raw materials for the leather sector are Cuban. Certain artificial leather, natural and reconstituted rubber, glues and chemical products are imported from capitalist countries.

The technological structure of shoe production has been changing over the last few years with a view to creating ways of increasing production.

Paper Products

The paper products industry produces paper and cardboard containers, labels, school notebooks and wrappers for cigarettes and cigars. This branch of industry includes eight enterprises, most of which are in City of Havana, and employs 4,800 workers, 27 percent of whom are women.

Eighty percent of the raw materials for this sector come from abroad; 20 percent are Cuban.

Chemicals

The chemical industry is really a case apart because of its high level of specialization. It produces plastic toys, soap, detergent, perfumes, cosmetics and toothpaste. This sector has seven enterprises, most of which are in the capital. The entire compression process and the major aspects of the injection process are concentrated in one enterprise. Similarly, 95 percent of all perfume is manufactured in one enterprise. The chemical sector, like others, is highly dependent on imported raw materials. More than one-third of the labor force is made up of women. Being a high-technology industry the chemical sector has the highest labor productivity in Cuba.

1976-1980 Five-Year Plan

For the 1976-1980 five-year plan the Ministry of Light Industry has worked out a development plan that follows the directive of the 1st Party Congress.

In 1978 construction began on three large textile plants: the Santiago de Cuba textile mill will produce 80 million square meters of cloth; the Villa Clara textile mill will produce 60 million square meters of cloth and a complementary thread mill will produce 15,000 tons of thread. The Bellotex textile mill of Matanzas is also under construction and will manufacture 19 million sugar sacks. The towel factory will make 10 million towels.

When the three new factories that are being built in Batabano, Ciego de Avila and Las Tunas open, school furniture production will go up. In the meantime the modernization and expansion of cloth and knitwear production and modernization of 14 workshops is under way.

In 1977 construction began on two factories in Havana Province. One will make corrugated cardboard containers and the other regular cardboard containers, carbon paper and tapes for card-punching machines. Similarly, modernization and expansion of plant capacity are under way in the Villa Clara enterprise.

Towards the end of 1974 the manufacture of plastic boxes was completed and will substitute for part of the production of less durable, wooden boxes.

The shoe industry has been expanded to manufacture men's, women's and children's shoes. With the polyester button factory button production will increase to 150 million per year.

Vanguard Work Force

We cannot close this article without speaking of the people who have made this 20-year advance in light industry possible: the workers.

Like all our working class the workers in light industry are committed to socialist emulation to insure production increase of the consumer products demanded by our people.

In spite of the high costs imposed by the U.S. economic blockade and the problems it has caused light industry--problems and costs that are inevitably borne by all the Cuban people--workers in light industry have made supreme individual and collective efforts to defeat the enemy in the trenches of day-to-day production.

We could cite hundreds of exemplary workers and still hardly scratch the surface, but in this article we'll mention only two. Victoria Turino, of the Alquitex thread mill, was the first woman to make a special commitment in honor of the 1st Party Congress and was a driving force behind the Advance Workers Movement. This movement was taken up by all light industry sectors and later spread throughout Cuban industry.

Another excellent vanguard example of the working class is technician Antonio Leon del Monte, four times a National Hero of Labor and a worker in the Vilo Acuna textile mill whose innovations, inventions and rationalization of the production process have saved Cuba a fortune in foreign exchange and brought forward the end of underdevelopment.

CSO: 3020

GUYANA'S ECONOMY BENEFITS THROUGH COOPERATION

FL031505 Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 25 Nov 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Delegate of the Commission of the European Communities, Mr. Domenico Menichini stated over the weekend that the total amount of aid from the European Economic Community (EEC) to Guyana has been quite important to this country's economy.

And he added that it is quite necessary for the Guyanese man-in-the-street be kept au-fait with the type of benefits that come through co-operation.

Under the Lome 1 convention, in operation since 1975, the aid from the EEC to Guyana has been notable: (G) \$44 million to the national indicative programme, plus benefits accruing to the country from the sugar protocol to the tune of 62.2 million pounds from 1975 to July, 1979.

Capital financing by the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the upper Demerara forestry project is (G) \$112 million; food aid-(G) \$1.3 million after payment of shipment costs; contribution by the EEC to the Rotary Club for building children's convalescent home (Lodge Backlands) (G) \$7.6 million (in four parts).

This contribution is part of a special action decided on by the Conference for International Economic Co-operation, and managed by an international development agency.

Comment

Guyana also benefits from the Caribbean regional programme (CARICOM) allotment of (G) \$112 million, which has only a 37 percent commitment of the total amount left (some \$414,000). These remaining funds will be committed by February 1980-before Lome 1 expires.

According to Mr. Menichini, who was featured on this week-end's GBS "Face-the-Nation" programme: The "red-tape in disbursement procedures" is not the fault of the EEC.

He pointed out that with regard to the African/Caribbean/Pacific states (ACP) the commitment has been reduced now to just over sixty (60 per cent of the total allocation under Lome 1 for technical and financial cooperation.

Stressing that accelerating the disbursements is not the problem of the EEC, Mr. Menichini stated it is a well-known fact that many developing countries have a "slow absorption capacity" for aid funds. In that the funds available can't be spent because there is a lack of projects clearly identified, and there might be a time-lag in going through the various preliminary stages.

Pointing to Guyana being a typical example, the EEC representative explained that Guyana's allocation is (G) \$44 million, plus the risk capital financed by the European Investment Bank, putting the amount to more than (G) \$55 million.

Projects

That commitment is now 95 per cent and the disbursement about 12 per cent. Guyana's national indicative programme was established since October 1975, but the projects outlined in that programme were only ideas of projects. These projects included the upper Demerara forestry project-in which the financing had to be given to the preliminary stages, the final design before passing to implementation of project.

The same, he said, was for the east bank, Berbice road project, where it was necessary to complete a final design before implementation of project, the calling in of tenders and awarding of contracts.

Mr. Menichini expressed the view that time could be saved if the countries reserve funds for the preliminary stages of projects, and get those completed before moving to get financing from the European Development Fund.

CSO: 3020

'GLENER' EDITORIAL RAPS CHARLES, MANLEY

FL301630 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Nov 79 p 10 FL

[Unattributed editorial entitled: "Unfortunate Statements"]

[Text] Two unfortunately extravagant statements issued earlier this week must cause the gravest concern to Jamaicans, irrespective of political party affiliation. The first was that of Senator Parnell Charles on Sunday at the J.L.P. [Jamaica Labor Party] conference when, in the midst of conference euphoria, he declared: "I might as well tell you from now that Winston Spaulding will be in charge of passports and certain people will have to answer to where they are going, what they are doing and where they are coming from."

One of the most criticised features of the J.L.P. government in the first years of independence was its extreme caution over subversion and its decision to withdraw passports from some Jamaicans.

Mr. Charles' statement suggests that this unpardonable policy may well be implemented if the J.L.P. is returned to power. It is an indefensible statement.

Senator Charles suffered a grave injustice under the P.N.P. [People's National Party] government when he was detained without cause--as it later transpired. He must therefore be severely tempted to wish to see some revenge on those who did him injustice, especially where in his view, they might be culpable of crimes against the country.

If any Jamaican is charged for a crime, it is the law that immigration can prevent him from leaving. If that is what Mr. Charles meant, he should have said so. But his platform rhetoric was frightening. It is good, therefore, that his leader has so promptly and effectively re-stated J.L.P. policy which in the process has repudiated Mr. Charles' statement. Mr. Seaga's declaration that "there will be no restrictions on any Jamaican passports" is timely and welcome.

The other unfortunate and extreme statement was that of Mr. Manley, the prime minister, who, losing his cool, said on Monday: "I denounce Mr. Seaga as a traitor and a liar." Mr. Manley's evidence was that of a report in an obscure magazine called THE LATIN AMERICAN REVIEW WEEKLY.

To charge the leader of the opposition with the high crime of treason--which is what being denounced as a traitor suggests i.e. that Mr. Seaga is "false to the allegiance to his sovereign or to the government of his country or guilty of treason or of any crime so regarded--is very grave indeed. If Mr. Seaga is so guilty, then the law should take its course.

Certainly neither Mr. Charles nor Mr. Manley in their outbursts have contributed to national unity--the goal which Mr. Seaga has declared to be that of his party if it forms the next government.

To Mr. Manley and Mr. Charles we say: Cool it! Revenge or mean-spiritedness should have no further part in our national politics.

CSO: 3020

GOVERNOR GENERAL HAILS RELATIONS WITH U.S.

FL292045 Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 25 Nov 79 p 1 FL

[Excerpts] United States nationals living in Jamaica have been told by the governor-general, the most Hon. Florizel Glasspole, not to be worried about the "lunatic fringe" and not to be disturbed by the "so-called extra-progressive forces who indulge in nothing else but criticism of the great imperialist power."

Mr. Glasspole, who was addressing the annual Thanksgiving dinner of the American Society at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Thursday night, said he would wish every American in this country to "feel positively at home," and he repeated that he stood "four square behind the friendship existing between Jamaica and America."

And, as he lauded the bonds of friendship which linked the two countries, the governor-general said: "Heavens know, if America says that it will receive all the people from Jamaica who would like to go there within a short time Jamaica would have a very few thousand people left here. For the fact is, people are looking for opportunities; they do not wish to feel that they are tied up and hemmed in. They want opportunities to go forward economically and educationally; and they see in the USA broad vistas of opportunities that do not exist in Jamaica. And that is why every day our poor friends (the visa officers at the U.S. Consulate) are so overburdened."

CSO: 3020

JAMAICA

SEAGA ADDRESSES JLP CONGRESS

PL292205 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Nov 79 pp 1, 15 FL

[GLEANER political reporter]

[Text] The opposition Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] has decided to contest any elections that are called, but at the same time has warned the government that if it called elections before fair voters' lists have been prepared, "The JLP reserves the right not to recognize the results of those elections."

Opposition leader Edward Seaga announced the party's decision yesterday to the tremendous crowd of cheering, bell-ringing party supporters who crammed into the national arena and crowded outside for the 36th annual conference of the party.

In announcing the decision, which is the reverse of a declaration made by the JLP in 1977 when it decided not to contest any elections until election reform was secured, Mr. Seaga told the vast throng of supporters that there was no more urgent task facing the country at this time than the preparation of fair voters' lists. He recalled the party's decision, made at the 1977 annual conference, to boycott elections until electoral reform was secured, and said that decision was for that purpose.

Mr. Seaga, who preceded his announcement with a searching and wide-ranging review of the economy's performance over the last seven years under the PNP government, said there could be no economic solution to the country's problems before there was political solution. And, he said, "The most effective economic solution is a change of government."

A State of Emergency

The strategy of the People's National Party [PNP], said Mr. Seaga, was to provoke a state of emergency and call elections before fair voters' lists were put into effect. "This is what they mean when they talk about a military solution."

He warned that the PNP had no intention of giving up power, at the same time charging the JLP supporters that if the PNP attempts to provoke a state of emergency, they should "lock down this country--lock down every avenue, every street, every lane and every highway."

"I make this my final charge to you if they attempt to provoke a state of emergency to hold on to power, then disrupt the functioning of government by every means of peaceful resistance and civil disobedience."

The JLP leader, after telling the conference that the PNP government had brought the country to a state of economic collapse in seven years, set out the JLP's plan for re-construction, declaring "Let promises be for the PNP; and let performance be for the JLP."

Economic Collapse

Describing the state of the economy, he said disasters generally affected the lives of people in a restricted area; but the PNP government had so shattered the economy that no one had escaped. No one could deny the impact of the economic collapse which had taken place in the nation since 1972.

Under the JLP government, the economy recorded positive growth of up to 60 percent each year, while under the PNP government there was negative growth each year of minus 15 percent. Foreign exchange reserves which amounted to \$125 million under the JLP government, had declined to minus \$250 million during the years 1972-78. At the same time, the cost of living which had been held down under the JLP government, had risen during the seven years of the present regime.

In other areas, unemployment which stood at 180,000 in 1972, has risen to 250,000 in 1979!

And while the Jamaican dollar was valued at US\$1.10 under the JLP government, the value of the Jamaican dollar had declined under the PNP government to US\$0.56--half of what it used to be.

The result of all this, said the opposition leader, had been a total collapse of the economy; and, so great had been the collapse, that not even the IMF assistance had been able to arrest the decline. It was worthy of note, he said, that the level of IMF assistance to Jamaica (on a pro capita basis) was among the highest, ranking second only to Turkey. So far, that organization had lent \$250 million to this island.

As a result of the collapse of the economy, a number of things which never happened under the JLP government, had been happening. There had been a collapse of services including hospitals, roads, schools and other essential services. This had been accompanied by a sharp collapse of production of basic items such as food crops, shoes and other things which were taken for

granted under the JLP. Many items which were in plentiful supply under the JLP are now being classified as luxuries.

250,000 Unemployed

Speaking of the JLP's outlook on this situation, Mr. Seaga said: "What must concern us is not only that each failure brings greater hardship on the people, but that the PNP's failures are what we will inherit."

By comparison, the PNP had inherited a completely different state of affairs from the JLP in 1972.

The PNP's complaint about inheriting unemployment bears much comparison, for while the figure stood at 180,000 in 1972, it was now 250,000. They had also complained that the poor did not benefit enough, but now the stage had been reached where the "poor can't bear any more."

He said that the JLP would be taking over a bankrupt treasury, where the PNP inheritor a well-industrialized economy.

Seven Years of Debt

"Not only will we be inheriting the ashes of the PNP, but we will also be inheriting the debts of seven years of reckless borrowing as well," said Mr. Seaga, who added that while the gross national debt inherited by the PNP in 1972 stood at \$330 million, the gross national debt was now \$3,300 million--a 10-fold increase. Repayment of some of this debt which was due for repayment in 1978, had been postponed and would become due in 1981, "So it is the JLP which will have to repair the damage," he said.

The PNP government inherited three new alumina plants at a time when Jamaica ranked first in world bauxite production. The PNP government shut down one of these and now Jamaica had fallen to third place in world bauxite production.

The government had also inherited a number of new plants to produce steel, tyres, flour, animal feed, boots, shoes, garments, stout, windows, doors, radios, poultry, lighting fixtures and cosmetics.

Schools and Hotels

Among other things inherited by the PNP government were 50 new secondary schools for 50,000 children, built in five years. Since taking office, the PNP had built only five more schools, of which one had been a gift from the Cuban Government. He then asked the question, "Where would the 50,000 be able to find a place in school, if the JLP government had not built those schools."

In the hotel industry, the PNP government inherited seven new hotels--three Inter-Continental, one Holiday Inn, one Hyatt, one Pegasus and one Skyline. By comparison, the PNP government had built only a single hotel since taking office--the Negril Beach Hotel.

The PNP government had also inherited all the hospitals in running condition, including a new hospital; it had inherited 7,000 shops stocked with "every finger-licking, mouthwatering type of food"; and it had also inherited stores stocked with appliances, textiles, shoes, hardware, spare parts and clothing, said Mr. Seaga, who then declared:

"Start From Scratch"

"Today, if you want such items, you have to go to Bend-Down Plaza on King Street in order to get them."

The Jamaica Labour Party, when it accedes to the government would have to "start from scratch," said Mr. Seaga, who added that "no country has even had a position in which you have to take over a country which has nothing... this party is going to reap Sodom and Gomorrah."

Not only would the JLP have to put benches in the schools, books in the hands of the children, sheets on hospital beds, bandages on the wounds and re-open the doors of factories, it would have to fill the pot-holes, repair roads, pay bills on time and revive hope.

He said that if the economy was to have a chance to recover, "Then somebody must stand up and stop this madness, otherwise the JLP will only be elected to pay the debts of this bankrupt government."

Problems of Tomorrow

Stating that the problems of tomorrow were being built up today and that the problems of the next government were being created now by this government, Mr. Seaga urged banks, insurance companies, building societies and financial institutions lending to the government to "recognize that the more money loaned to the government, the deeper the hole they were digging for themselves." For, he added, "This collapsing economy has not hit bottom yet."

Mr. Seaga said "We still have people and money committed to Jamaica," but it was wise to realize that the commitments that were holding Jamaica together, may not hold for two more years of the PNP government. I was wise to realize this because, he said, "No one can foresee the result of the next two years of PNP bungling, brutality and bankruptcy."

CSO: 3020

SEAGA RESTATES JLP'S PASSPORT POLICY

FL301625 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Nov 79 p 1 FL

[Excerpts] Opposition leader Edward Seaga declared yesterday that there would be no restrictions on passports under any future J.L.P. [Jamaica Labor Party] government.

Mr. Seaga was in effect refuting statements made by Deputy Leader Senator Parnell Charles at Sunday's annual conference of the party.

The opposition leader's reaction came even as the executive of the P.N.P. [People's National Party] issued a statement condemning the Charles' speech. The P.N.P. said "The threats of passport seizure and restrictions on the freedom of movement constitute clear dangers to our democracy."

No Vengeance

Mr. Seaga said the Charles' statement was made before his own arrival at the national arena, "otherwise I would have taken the opportunity to refute it, as the J.L.P. policy when I spoke, despite the fact that it was said in a humorous and light-heated vein."

In his own address he had stated that the J.L.P. would not be entering its next term of government with any feeling of political vengeance and would not be carrying out any programme of political harassment nor discrimination.

What the P.N.P. Said

In its statement the P.N.P. executive said it viewed the Charles' statement "with reprehension and total condemnation."

The P.N.P. said the views expressed by Senator Charles was yet another indication of the movement of the J.L.P. Leadership away from traditional acceptable politics into the politics of "overthrow and underthrow," into the politics of intimidation and vendetta.

MANLEY ADDRESSES CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE IN MIAMI

FL301544 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Nov 79 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Manley has identified growth and foreign investments as crucial objectives in any rational economic strategy for countries in the Caribbean. At the same time he emphasized the importance of host countries laying the bases for understanding of private sector business activities in an effort to create favorable conditions for investments. The prime minister was last night's special after dinner speaker at the third Miami conference on Caribbean development.

Mr Manley outlined Jamaica's position within the context of its membership in the Caribbean common market. He observed that attempts by Caribbean countries to expand economic activities had come up against the problem of structural dependence. But he said strategies directed towards growth and the export sector remain crucial to survival. The prime minister pointed out however that it was important that young developing countries initiate national discussions on the question of private, local and foreign business activities to insure clear understanding of the factors involved. In addition he said it was critical that foreign investments not be made a football in the local political process.

The Miami conference ends today and Mr Manley is expected to return home later today.

CSO: 3020

JAMAICA

COMMENTARY SAYS ALUMINA SALE TO USSR WILL BE AT A LOSS

FL292115 Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 25 Nov 79 p 9 FL

[Sunday commentary by Wilmot Perkins entitled: "The Great Alumina Deals Mystery"]

[Excerpts] The prime minister returned from Moscow in April trumpeting "the largest single economic negotiation that has ever taken place in the history of Jamaica." We were told that "principled" agreements had been arrived at with the Russians and the Hungarians under which they would buy, beginning next year, 200,000 tons of Jamaican alumina. For the four years up to the end of 1983, these sales would be worth, according to Mr. Manley, more than U.S. \$40 million. It appeared, on the face of it, that Mr. Manley had scored a triumph.

One have, of course, learned from experience to take the prime minister's triumphs with a lump of salt. The rosier the picture he paints, the more powerful one's apprehension; and Mr. Manley did paint a very rosy picture at the airport. So one found oneself asking questions and not being at all surprised when there were no answers forthcoming. It has, for example, not up to now been made clear exactly how the government proposes to finance the "balanced trade" of which Mr. Manley spoke, given the desperation of the foreign-exchange situation and the need to make cash purchases of alumina from Alcan, paying in United States dollars.

The fanfare had not yet faded when it transpired that there were really no contracts either with the Soviet Union or with Hungary. What the government had, in effect, brought back from Moscow was merely an agreement to negotiate an agreement; and a copy of a standard Soviet trade contract which Dr. Carlton Davis, head of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute and the government's chief negotiator, had put into his pocket. Nevertheless, there was confidence, to a considerable degree ideologically inspired, that firm, principled contracts with both these fraternal socialist governments would be in hand by September or thereabouts.

Well before September arrived, it turned out that there would be no nailing down the Hungarians. Of the 200,000 tons of alumina which, according to Mr. Manley, would be sold annually from next year to 1983 as a result of the trip, the Hungarians were to have taken 150,000 tons. It did seem a little odd. The Hungarians are themselves exporters of alumina. Why then should they have been buying alumina all the way from Jamaica?

A Russian Trick

Ultimately it emerged that what these principled comrades had in mind was to pick up the Jamaican alumina at a fraction of world prices, which they thought that they could do because of our desperate economic situation, and then turn around and "flog" it in the world market in direct competition with the companies operating here.

The trick is one they learned from the Russians. The USSR for example, bought more than 10 per cent of Angola's 1976 coffee crop for 20 cents a pound less than the going world price. The following year, 1977, they did better. They purchased 5 per cent of that crop at 66 cents a pound below the world market price. In each case they unloaded the crop on the market at the prevailing price.

So scandalous was the Hungarian proposition, however, that the government had no alternative but to see a substantial proportion of "the largest single economic negotiation that has ever taken place in the history of Jamaica" vanish into thin air.

The Russians remained. Eventually the government was able to announce that a firm contract had been negotiated with them for 50,000 tons a year for each of the years 1980 to 1983; although, it turned out, a price had been agreed only in respect of 1980 shipments, thus leaving, in respect of the next three years, only a contract to negotiate a contract.

Later, however, there was better news—or so it seemed. The Russians had agreed to double their purchase in 1980, and would now take instead a total of 100,000 tons for the year, which was great. Something of substance had, after all, resulted from Mr. Manley's excursion to Moscow. So it seemed.

There was just one slightly disturbing element. The prime minister, in April when he returned from Moscow, had tossed figures around like confetti. While he had not been too exact, he had given the clear impression of a price in excess of U.S.\$200 a ton for the alumina to be sold to the USSR and Hungary. That seemed pretty good at the time; until it turned out following a discussion with Mr. Horace Clarke, the minister of mining, that the Russian would not be taking delivery of the stuff here. We would be responsible for delivering the stuff in the USSR and the U.S.\$200 a ton would have to cover the cost of shipping.

There seemed little here to sustain Mr. Manley's euphoric bubble, given the state of the energy market and its influence upon the prices of both alumina and shipping. On the other hand, there being no firm contract, there would obviously be no firm price. Clearly, the US\$200 a ton was a figment of Mr. Manley's verbosity. That was no cause for confidence. But then, who any longer had any confidence in Mr. Manley? And it did leave open (did it not?) the possibility of a negotiated price which would be at least adequate having regard to all these factors.

Some Massive Losses

Here then is the position as I understand it. The government has contracts to purchase the necessary alumina from Alcan. The price of the alumina works out, at the moment, to approximately US\$160 per ton. But there is provision for cost escalation; and with the energy market behaving as it is, some estimates of the price at which the government may have to buy alumina for shipment to the USSR during 1980 run as high as US\$180 per ton.

The government, on the other hand, has agreed to sell the Russians during 1980, on the first contract, 50,000 tons of alumina at a price of US\$181 per ton. The second 50,000 tons will fetch US\$200 per ton; which means that the Russians have relented a bit on the second contract. There is no provision in these contracts with the Russians for cost-escalation; which means that the government will be obliged to deliver at those prices whatever it has to pay Alcan for supplies.

And, of course, the prices we get are C.I.F. The cost of shipping the alumina to the USSR will have to be paid by us. What that cost will be is as much dependent upon what OPEC does; the probability being that they will rise substantially between now and the end of the delivery period.

It now seems very unlikely that the government is going to be able to land alumina in the Soviet Union at a cost much below US\$200 a ton. One estimate that I have heard suggests that it could be as high as US\$230 before the end of 1980. In that event, Jamaica stands to incur some massive losses on the transaction.

That is not, by any means, the end of the story. Under the terms of Mr. Manley's "balanced trade," Jamaica is undertaking to purchase goods in the USSR. These contracts are being individually negotiated by separate negotiators, some of them in the private sector. Dr. Davis, for example, told me at one point that he knew about the alumina negotiation. That was all. He had nothing to do with any other negotiations. He didn't know who was monitoring the total package. In fact, he didn't know if anybody was. Further inquiry leads me to the view that nobody is. Which means that nobody in the government is likely to be able to say with any certainty what is the sum of the different deals in terms of overall gain or loss to Jamaica.

My information is that we have been taken for a ride on the alumina deal. What chance is there that we are not being so taken on all the other deals, one by one as they arise?

SEAGA PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR PRIVATE SECTOR

FL301605 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Nov 79 pp 1, 13 FL

[GLEANER political reporter]

[Excerpts] A pledge to restore economic growth by the introduction of balanced policies, sound management and moral judgment as the bases for creating a government of national unity, has been made by opposition leader, Mr. Edward Seaga, as he announced the Jamaica Labour Party's [JLP] strategy for recovery at its 36th annual conference on Sunday.

"The private sector would be the only positive area of growth, and so the strategy of a JLP government would be to reactivate the private sector in order to start the machinery turning again."

The JLP would seek, also to stimulate investment," he said.

Speaking of the public sector, he said two years ago, the government enterprises had lost \$100 million. There was also the cost of expensive propaganda through the JBC [Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation], the API [Agency for Public Information] and the Ministry of Mobilization, amounting to \$10 million. As a result of these conditions, said Mr. Seaga, he foresaw "very little positive new public sector programmes for the first two years of any new government."

The JLP, therefore, would concentrate on making the existing system work, on repairing and maintaining existing services, on "trimming off the fat," on cutting out "rip-offs" and on ridding the government of losing organisations. he went on to add: "A great part of the hope placed in the JLP is the conviction that only the JLP can revive investment again."

He said the party expected to have a second forum meeting with the private sector "to deal with the specific areas of involvement, discuss management problems and bottlenecks in the economy, to set up task forces on specific projects for economic recovery, to set up machinery to examine investments for the future, and to gear the country for smooth take-over and a fast start by the government of the JLP."

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

CABINET MEETING ANNOUNCED--For the first time since its establishment, the Jamaican Cabinet will meet today at the northern city of Montego Bay to examine crucial matters of national interest. Prime Minister Michael Manley will chair the regular meeting of his cabinet at that beach resort, where he has stayed for 1 week fulfilling official commitments. Manley has met with workers of the hotel industry, tourism, customs services, immigration and police, and chaired this weekend a special meeting of the National Executive Committee meeting of the governing People's National Party. This morning the Jamaican leader will dedicate the party offices for Jamaica's north-western area, which includes the provinces of Hanover, St James and Westmorland, the PRENSA LATINA report, datelined Kingston, adds. [Text] [FL261936 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1909 GMT 26 Nov 79]

CSO: 3020

PCM LEADER MARTINEZ INTERVIEWED ON PARTY AIMS

Madrid MUNDO OBRERO in Spanish 12 Oct 79 p 8

[Interview of PCM Secretary General Arnaldo Martinez Verdugo by Alberto Praderas; date and place not given]

[Text] The last Mexican elections for the chamber of Deputies, held in July, have resulted in the Mexican Communist Party [PCM] becoming "politically legal" and hence the shattering of the traditional electoral pattern. The final results, following the application of a complex system of computation whose aim is to grant additional benefits to the government party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], were to place the PCM in third place with a count of approximately 800,000 votes which has given the PCM for the first time since it was declared illegal in 1946 the opportunity to sit in Parliament.

Alberto Praderas has conducted this interview for MUNDO OBRERO with Arnaldo Martinez Verdugo, secretary general of the PCM, to appraise the election results and the future prospects of the communists in Mexico.

Mexican communists took part in the elections with a list of names on which also appeared other groups of the left; the results exceeded by far the 1.5 percent of the votes required for the so-called "definite registration" and clarify the principal unknown quantity in these elections: Mexican communists are fully legal and will be present in Parliament.

[Question] How does the PCM, after 2 months, appraise the results achieved?

[Answer] The PRI received 3 million votes less than it did in the elections 6 years ago. The National Action Party [PAN], which is in second place has lost 2 million votes in the last 6 years, having at the present time 1.4 million votes. In view of these facts, it is necessary to emphasize the nearly 800,000 votes which our party received, particularly since our lack

of maturity in regard to electoral campaigns has been obvious and has in the final analysis weakened considerably our already reduced strength.

[Question] The PCM is criticized by the left because in playing the game of political reform it draws the movement of popular disobedience and discontent into a posture of legality without the antidemocratic essence of the system being altered in return.

[Answer] It is true that there has been a discussion of this subject in the left, as to the method of fighting and as to the value of participating in the elections. Some time ago we opted for parliamentarism as one more form--not the only form--of revolutionary struggle: as a way of reorganizing our forces, of providing political education to the masses, and so forth.

In spite of the fact that we consider the electoral system to be antidemocratic, even after the political reform, we continue to expose this system and to try to introduce more democratic elements. Certain parties of the left believe that with our participation we are supporting the "establishment" and playing its game. That would really be true if we were not using our legal participation to constantly denounce the antidemocratic mechanisms. We think that the abstentionist posture is a rejection of the democratic struggle which, we believe has a revolutionary content so long as it is indissolubly linked with a change in the system and is not conceived as an end in itself.

The democratic struggle has for the Mexican working class a very special significance as it has not yet won true freedoms and, even more if we take into account that it needs most of all political freedom, which has been snatched away from it by a group of bureaucratic union leaders linked with the PRI.

It is true that with our participation we take advantage of a means of diversifying the struggle but only initially and without its meaning, at least for the time being, a very important change. It opens for us ever greater possibilities as we achieve complete union freedom and political freedom which will be more difficult through the existing mechanisms, such as Article 354, which not only makes this political freedom but, more seriously, the opportunity to work, dependent on the unions. We believe that if our participation in the Chamber serves to repeal laws like these--and we will achieve this--an important step in the democratization of the country will have been taken.

[Question] Do you consider that the alliance of the left in the elections was a tactical expedient or, on the contrary, is it an important event with a view to the 1982 elections?

[Answer] One must bear in mind that the union of the left is partial and very limited, but this was so through no fault of ours, since we had the idea of a broader bloc which would include certain reformist forces. It was they, the Popular Socialist Party [PPS] and the Socialist Workers Party [PST], who rejected the alliance.

We are going to work for this alliance so long as it does not lead to passive positions, but it is going to be difficult because in view of the votes we received, the government has as one of its primary objectives to isolate us. One sector of the PRI says that it is not necessary to go along with communism which means that they will attempt by all means to prevent this alliance...

In spite of the drawbacks, we see no possibility other than the union of the left, with all its nuances, in the formulation of a joint long-range program and in working in mass movements.

[Question] Would it be accurate to speak of electoral optimism based on that 5.4 percent?

[Answer] Only relatively, since the past elections show us that we have lost ground in the rural areas, which made our overall index go down, since in the cities we won 13 percent. Evidently there had been carelessness by us, particularly if we bear in mind that we have traditionally been a peasant party. Likewise, the vote shows that we have been slow about drawing up an alternative for modernizing the agricultural industry, which we are already examining.

Also, as I previously explained, our inexperience in elections and the lack of knowledge of the mechanisms through which frauds are perpetrated played a role. Now, I am convinced that once these shortcomings are overcome, the municipal elections to be held this year will allow us to go more deeply into the areas in which we have shown these weaknesses.

[Question] In your opinion, what are the reasons for the great voter abstention (45 percent in the official figures) when for the first time alternatives to the formulas of the government party were presented? At the same time, the PRI accuses the left of not having been able to capture the votes of the discontented...

[Answer] One must examine these data with much care since the PRI previously had the ability to pad the vote but now, and in certain areas, especially the urban, it did not have the option of committing fraud. However, it is true that there is a high rate of abstention, but for various reasons: the distrust of the electoral mechanism, which has certainly lost much prestige, a marginal politically backward population which for this reason does not enter into the electoral process and, lastly, the deliberate abstention of certain groups.

[Question] The PCM is one of the least "classic" communist parties of Latin America. Does this mean that it is beginning to pick up in some way the Eurocommunist ideas?

[Answer] We are a party that suffered much under the influence of Stalinism and the domination of dogmatism. Since 1968 we have been getting ahead with the elimination of these shortcomings but there is still a great deal to do. We must be autonomous, independent, in working out our own conceptions but

at the same time maintain in effect our internationalism and solidarity with the communist parties all over the world. Regarding the subject of Euro-communism, to us it seems very good. There are certain basic Marxist theses which we defend as much as the European communist parties do even though Mexico is not Europe and for that reason, we must form our own policy, bearing in mind our own conditions but enriching ourselves with the ideas of foreign organizations, socialist as well as communist.

[Question] In sum, what would be the thinking of the PCM?

[Answer] It could be concluded that the struggle against a dogmatic attitude and in favor of the application of the general principles of Marxism-Leninism to the concrete realities of Mexico continues to be our party's most important theoretical task, on whose accomplishment depends its own development and that of a revolutionary anti-imperialist and socialist movement, which is capable of offering a viable alternative to the power of the great reactionary bourgeoisie associated with imperialism.

[Question] Finally, to what extent can an event as important as the one which took place in Nicaragua influence Latin America and, specifically, Mexico?

[Answer] I think that it will play a positive role, principally in Central America and specifically in El Salvador and Guatemala. The success shows a general tendency in Latin America, in spite of setbacks, which insures, I believe, the possibility of a true advance of the revolutionary movement. Another interesting precedent is the example of unity which the antidictatorial forces have demonstrated, since this gave rise to great confidence among the people and its expectations for victory. It also demonstrates that the solution for Latin America and, therefore, for Mexico, is inevitably through the democratic-socialist thesis.

9204

CSO: 3110

NICARAGUA

ROBELO DISCUSSES ECONOMIC REACTIVATION PLAN

PA301528 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 79 PA

[Excerpts] Nicaragua has not benefited from the Central American Common Market, Robelo told those in charge of tourism yesterday.

At a seminar for those in charge of tourism held yesterday at the Inter-continental Hotel, Alfonso Robelo said the Central American Common Market has created much activity in the area, but this has at no time been advantageous to our country. On the contrary, we have deficits each year which harm our economy instead of improving it, unlike the other countries of the area.

This is one characteristic of our economy we should not lose sight of, the reconstruction junta member said. If we took advantage of this by means of the country's economic situation, it would be very advantageous for us. [sentence as heard]

Today, Nicaragua is affected by unemployment, a high cost of living, food and medicine shortages and the paralysis of several vital industries. The Revolutionary Government is preparing to solve these problems effectively. For this purpose, the government has drafted an emergency and economic reactivation plan which will be officially announced between 1 and 15 December. This plan will be the basis of the economic activities we Nicaraguans will conduct in 1980. Let us listen to Robelo's statement yesterday on the economic emergency plan while addressing those in charge of tourism.

[Begin recording] Another of our serious problems is the marked rise in the cost of living. This would have an impact on tourism to the extent that coming to Nicaragua would be less attractive due to the high prices in the country.

We have other serious problems hindering our general production including the satisfaction of certain fundamental needs such as medicines and so forth.

We are making an effort to rectify the situation, and we are drafting an economic reactivation plan for 1980. Seven groups have been organized for this task. These groups must study interrelated areas which I will quickly mention here, pointing out their impact on tourist activities.

The first group is for external financing. What do we have abroad that can help our revolution? This group studies possible loan sources, availability, interest rates and conditions. It also analyzes exports. Exports constitute another source of currency and therefore [can stimulate] external financing or availability for purchases abroad. I referred to this earlier when I listed our 10 most important export products. This group is also concerned with the various ways of attracting currency into our country. There is an important entry representing revenues derived from visitors to Nicaragua.

It has been very difficult for me to determine how much time this revenue amounts to. Later on, I would like to make a gross estimate on how things will be once we develop tourism optimally.

Next, there is an internal financing group. This group analyzes the fiscal revenue or taxes that can be planned for 1980. It also analyzes the budget and how our fiscal revenue should be spent. Furthermore, the activities of the financial sector, nationalized banks and financial institutions are analyzed.

The third group is concerned with investments. This concerns the government's investment plan in the productive area and the private sector's expected investments in 1980.

The fourth group deals with production estimates or goals for 1980 in the agricultural, livestock, industrial, mining and fishing sectors.

The fifth group studies the government's wage and employment policies, our employment expectations for 1980 and how we can absorb our huge unemployment figures. In addition to the existing unemployment, let us bear in mind that due to the population growth some 45,000 persons join the working force every year. The average is between 45,000 and 50,000 persons per year. In other words, in addition to alleviating our huge unemployment rate, we must create jobs for some 45,000 to 50,000 persons per year.

I will digress a little bit to view the area of cotton production. The fact that we are planting only 25 percent of the area used for this crop in normal years and the fact that we are expecting a production equivalent to only 20 percent because crops were planted late and not under the best conditions will mean no jobs for some 150,000 cotton harvesters who usually work in the West and in Managua from December to April. As I said, the fifth group will concern itself with wage and employment policies.

The sixth group studying our economic reactivation for 1980 will analyze needs, prices and supply of staples. It will also analyze the price, source and amount of consumer goods. When I say staples I am not referring only to food but to medicine, clothing, shoes and oil as well. In short, I am referring to all that is essential for our country's development.

The seventh group is studying social investments. This includes a political element because one can play around with the amount invested in the social area, depending on the impact one wishes to make on a particular social sector. This group is studying the programs that can be implemented in the social area. By this I mean the construction of schools, hospitals, potable water systems in the various communities, cultural programs and so forth. [end recording]

CSO: 3010

NICARAGUA

SOMOZIST 'SPY' WITHIN JUNTA EXPOSED

PA041538 Paris AFP in Spanish 1149 GMT 4 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 4 Dec (AFP)—The infiltration of the Nicaraguan Government junta by a spy at the service of President Anastasio Somoza's deposed regime and the promise by Interior Minister Tomas Borge to make surprising revelations about it had Nicaragua aghast today.

According to Borge, Robert Fisher, who was in charge of public relations for junta member Alfonso Robelo, was actually a spy who worked for the Somozist intelligence service and managed to install himself near the power circles after the dictator's overthrow. Fisher lived in Costa Rica a short time before the insurrection that toppled Somoza and was arrested briefly upon his return to the country while it was still under Somoza's rule.

Borge said the harassment activities against Fisher--whose Nicaraguan citizenship was questioned by Somozist authorities--and his arrest were faked in order to make opposition leaders who had connections with Fisher trust him.

According to Borge, the files of Somoza's security office remained intact and the revelation of the names of some persons who collaborated with the previous government will create quite a stir. He added that Somoza spied on the Nicaraguan people at all levels and spent a fortune creating false situations in order to lay his hands on the insurrectional movement's plans.

CSO: 3010

ACTIVITIES OF PROTESTANT SECTS UNDER INVESTIGATION

Protestant Sects Investigated

PA022339 EL PUEBLO in Spanish 27 Nov 79 p 8 PA

[Text] Several officials of the Nicaraguan Natural Resources and Environment Institute (IRENA) have been sent to the Atlantic Coast for 1 month to investigate and settle the conflict being caused by Protestant pastors operating in that isolated region.

The work of religious organizations among the Miskito peasants is of great concern for the leaders of the revolution because the members of these sects are more loyal to their sect than to the revolution.

The situation has become more difficult since the miners working in the mines confiscated by the state are members of this sect and any type of counterrevolutionary action could take place unless the situation is handled with the speed and delicacy it deserves.

The idea is to make these miners realize that the leaders of these sects are loyal to the interests of U.S. imperialism and not to the interests of the working class and the exploited people of this country.

In addition, the leaders of the revolution are trying to gather more information about possible attacks on the mines by the members of these religious sects that have "brainwashed" the inhabitants of the region.

The IRENA officials are the ones with the greatest political knowledge and persuasive talent and who also possess the ability to organize in order to rescue the Miskitos from the influence being exerted on them by U.S. imperialism.

As everyone knows, Americans and other foreigners have been in the Atlantic Coast area for many years and have created an alien mentality. In addition to shamefully stealing from the poor inhabitants of this area, they are leading them to believe that their problems cannot be solved in this world and that solutions can only be attained through good deeds, without fighting the bourgeoisie and imperialism, to enjoy the benefits of the next world.

It should be recalled that recently Commander Tomas Borge said some North American administrators [administradores] were attempting a boycott because the mines had been nationalized and instructions were issued to militiamen to arrest them in the event of evil action.

Protestants Resign From CDS

PA022340 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 27 Nov 79 (no page given) PA

[Text] Tipitapa--The members of the various Protestant churches in this community have decided to withdraw from all political activities, even in the Sandinist Defense Committess [CDS].

Some CDS members say the idea is to prevent these persons from identifying with political parties or trends because these parties are engaged in campaigns against Somozists and this is not in line with the position of the members of the Protestant churches.

The Protestants have sometimes resigned, giving an explanation to their electors or to the political coordinators. But in most cases they have done so without giving an explanation since it appears they are not allowed to do so.

In addition to these obstacles in this community, the CDS have also found that some Somozists have shamelessly taken up the red and black bandana and are shouting Sandinist slogans to avoid being taken to prison or at least removed from a position of leadership.

One of the CDS coordinators told EL PUEBLO that despite all adverse conditions, nobody can stop the organization of the masses because history cannot be subject to the whim of a few people or groups.

CSO: 3010

DRIVE AGAINST COUNTERREVOLUTION ASSESSED

PA011303 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Nov 79 pp 1, 8 PA

[Text] Companero Manuel Salvatierra, guerrilla commander of the second western military region, has reported the success of the "death to the counterrevolution" operation conducted several days ago in western Nicaragua.

The authorities found 10 pistols, 3 shotguns, 2 .22 caliber rifles, 7,922 bullets, 2 walkie-talkies, military supplies and uniforms in the house of merchant Antonio Nesme in Chinandega.

Commander Salvatierra said 10 pistols, a shotgun and 122,000 cordobas were found buried in a mail drop. An investigation will continue until the origin of this money is found.

Henchman Uriel Navarrete was also detected in Chinandega. He escaped; however, the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] has clues concerning his whereabouts and will soon capture him.

Salvatierra also referred to the attitude the people should have toward the EPS. He said: "We do not want to be respected because we repress the people. We want to be respected because of our moral authority. We want the people to recognize this."

He also referred to some people's attitude toward obeying the orders of the EPS. He said citizens are obliged to respect EPS companeros and to obey their orders to stop. He said "Commander Borge recently indicated that one must respect these orders. If one does not, there is no authority and anarchy will ensue."

We have a high percentage of illiterate companeros, but one should not confuse illiteracy with having no morals or political views, Commander Salvatierra added. He said one instructor has been assigned to teach groups of five companeros. He added that "we do not feel it is a dishonor to have illiterates in the EPS. We know we are comprised of those sectors which worked arduously against the dictatorship."

'BARRICADA' WARNS AGAINST ENEMIES OF REVOLUTION

PA021942 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Nov 79 p 3 PA

[Editorial: "The Ideological Weapons of 'Death'"]

[Text] During the insurrection our people learned to distinguish between genuine representatives and champions of their interests and those who, claiming to be identified with them, represented and defended other interests.

Following the victory over Somoza's dictatorship, some have wanted to take advantage of our people's Sandinist and revolutionary spirit to try to separate them from their legitimate vanguard, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], and thus lay the groundwork for dealing harsh blows to the people's Sandinist revolution. No doubt the extreme left and right are united in this drive to weaken the revolutionary movement and then attack more directly.

There are many examples of this but we are just going to cite a few specific cases.

The Simon Bolivar Brigade called on several working class groups to pursue the revolutionary struggle disregarding the mainstream of the workers represented in the measures and provisions adopted by our National Reconstruction Government and our vanguard, the FSLN, and urging them to take over factories, stage strikes for strictly economic reasons and so forth. Those struggles promoted by the Simon Bolivar Brigade involved a duplicity of views, ideas and action within the revolutionary movement and our people know better than anyone else how the enemies of our revolution can take advantage of that duplicity.

The Sandinist Social Democratic Party was created to confuse the people by misrepresenting the real revolutionary meaning of the thinking of our general of free people, Augusto C. Sandino. Taking advantage of the Sandinist spirit of our people, opportunists tried to make believe Sandino was only anti-imperialist, hiding the democratic and popular meaning, the class content of the Sandinist struggle that our revolutionary vanguard espoused from the outset. Thus, they wanted to separate our people from their revolutionary vanguard with the argument that the FSLN was completely divorced from Sandino's thinking.

A campaign was undertaken to portray the Sandinist defense committees as repressive rather than as a source of people's power. It still seeks to discredit our Sandinist mass organizations, trying to sow discontent and fear among our people to separate them from the FSLN.

Misrepresentative reports by international news agencies controlled by imperialists have sought to overshadow the facts about the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. Simultaneously, another campaign has been undertaken by the Inter-American Press Association concerning the existence of freedom of the press in Nicaragua.

Even though none of these campaigns has caused an echo among our people, we cannot underestimate the enemy and should gird ourselves to fight on an ideological plane. A nation aware of its interests cannot be deceived or confused. No one can divide a people who carry out their revolutionary duties. We, therefore, urge the people to unite firmly with their vanguard and pursue the political discussion of the problems faced by our revolution. The next few days will be hard and we have no doubt that the reactionaries will take advantage of this to undertake new diversionary campaigns. We are going to fight this with the literacy campaign by strengthening our democracy and improving people's participation in the making of state and economic decisions.

CSO: 3010

ROBELO CALLEJAS EXPLAINS MDN ROLE IN REVOLUTION

PA030250 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Nov 79 p 9 PA

[Text] Alfonso Robelo Callejas gave a revealing and fruitful lecture in Leon this weekend on the ideology of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement [MDN] and its participation in the liberation of Nicaragua.

In a speech to a large group of people who filled the CBL's [not further identified] second floor, he recalled the beginning of the MDN and its consolidation as a movement first and then as a party.

The MDN was born with the death of Pedro Joaquin Chamaorow, the hero of public liberties, which marked the historic turning point in the struggle against the dictatorship in our country.

The MDN appeared as an agglutinative factor against the Somoza dynasty and as a dynamic element within the broad opposition front.

The MDN declaration of 14 April opened a gap in the conscience of many indifferent individuals who were not members of any political organization. Later the MDN began its relations with the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] with which it agreed on many aspects and shared many interests. While the FSLN turned out to be the determining factor in the country's liberation, the MDN, jointly with other organizations, became the motor which propelled this action.

He recalled that certain MDN members were also leaders in the FSLN, such as William Fonseca. He also cited the names of MDN members who are martyrs of the FSLN.

International Contacts

He spoke about the MDN relationship with Latin American leaders and its very valuable contacts with leaders like Carlos Andres Perez, General Torrijos and Jose Figueres.

He also elaborated on his activities with the private sector, his role as MDN coordinator and his participation as a member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

He defined the MDN as a party with its own identity. He said it is a party that is devoting all its efforts to the Sandinist revolution and which considers itself an integral part of it.

The MDN coordination with the FSLN is that of unity in action. This opens various alternatives and establishes possibilities for a coalition because the MDN ideology agrees with that of the Government of National Reconstruction.

Room for Everybody

He said the MDN is not a political party that defends the privileges of classes, but a party that has room for all honest Nicaraguans who are struggling for a new country.

Robelo Callejas vehemently noted that it is not a party made up of resentful persons but of individuals struggling for the revolutionary process.

He said that the MDN accepts constructive criticism and rejects anything which harms something as beautiful as the Nicaraguan democratic process.

A change is needed in Nicaragua and the MDN ideology promotes a social, political and revolutionary status which is truly Nicaraguan. He explained that the MDN opposes hatred among classes because classes should not be eliminated but integrated into a society devoid of abysmal differences.

Social Benefit

Robelo Callejas said the changes in the government should be for the benefit of the deprived classes and that these changes should be made under freedom. He affirmed: We have freedom now, particularly political freedom. We are free to travel, we have freedom of religion, we are free to believe in God and to educate our children without having our paternal authority restricted.

He said the MDN does not want justice to be trampled and the rights of the people violated because our process must be truly Nicaraguan. [as published]

Our revolution, he emphasized, is very beautiful, Sandinist and Nicaraguan. He added that our revolution should be original and must not copy from any other revolution. He said we must progress in the process in an orderly manner in order to lead to socialization and not to chaos.

He advocated respect for private property of the production sector which fulfills a social duty. He made a thorough explanation of property with a social duty.

He listed the most important aspects in line with the outline of the revolutionary government.

He said he admires the courage of recognizing the errors made in the principles of production and equity.

He read the basic aspects of the pastoral letter and explained how it agrees with MDN views.

Participation in the Revolution

He concluded by stating that the MDN is part of the revolutionary process and that it participates in it in a clear, honest and dignified way to build the new Nicaragua.

In the question and answer period Robelo Callejas clarified certain misunderstandings and distortions regarding the MDN. He admitted that the MDN may join other parties that promote the same goals for the elimination of exploitation in our fatherland and realization of true freedom.

Robelo Callejas' lecture lasted more than 2 hours. He was given an ovation because of his clear and firm answers regarding the present status of the MDN and its plans as a vanguard party in the revolutionary process and the movement to socialism.

CSO: 3010

'EL PUEBLO' EXAMINES REVOLUTIONARY GAINS

PA041332 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 28 Nov 79 p 2 PA

[Editorial]

[Text] A revolution advances at the rate allowed by the concrete material conditions in which it develops. In an undeveloped country, where capitalism and a still more undeveloped precapitalistic system exist, it is virtually impossible to develop socialism immediately. A transitional period must pass before economic, political and ideological underdevelopment can be overcome.

During this period, surviving reactionary forces use every trick possible to keep the revolution from successfully passing through the transitional period and advancing toward socialism. The organized sabotage of production, promotion of anarchy, improvisation, bureaucratization, apparent acceptance of popular aspirations, distortion of revolutionary ideals and even armed aggression are methods used by reactionary sectors maneuvering to halt the revolutionary advance.

This has occurred throughout the history of mankind and always ends with the masses crushing these forces or with forces prevailing and halting the revolutionary process for many years.

Our country is living in a transitional period. A criminal dictatorship has been defeated and on its remains a country is being rebuilt so it can later pass to socialism. This is what most people want and important revolutionary forces are working toward this goal. However, there are important forces opposing this process. They are domestic and foreign reactionary forces. These forces conspire against us from within the revolution itself, while at other times they act openly.

Abroad, imperialism, the remains of Somozism and the most recalcitrant national reactionaries, together with military and bourgeoisie cliques that control power in various countries, conspire openly against our revolution's socialist advance. There are also bourgeoisie cliques that claim to be very friendly toward our revolutionary process. However, they work quietly to keep the revolution from reaching socialism and conspire to settle some aspects but to leave our country within the limits of a bourgeoisie democracy.

Abroad, the pro-imperialist bourgeoisie, domestic reactionaries and the remnants of Somozism slyly weave their threads to entangle the process and limit its development so that capitalist private property, exploitation of the salaried worker and the misery of the masses will prevail. All these forces call themselves revolutionary and Sandinist and wave revolutionary flags. Their revolutionary zeal has no limits. They have concealed their own flags and wave those of the revolution in order to prostitute them. They have "renounced" the idyllic past of the master and the servant in order to shout that all men are equal and that masters and servants are identical. We are all Nicaraguans and sons of God. They no longer practice capitalism. They practice socialism and equality because this is reality, because we all want it and because we are all Nicaraguans.

Those who yesterday clamored against communism and socialism, today "defend" communism and socialism with an unmatched brazeness. They say property has a social function because they feel they are the core of society. They accept socialism because, according to them, socialism brings well-being, and with what they have and what they will receive they will be much better off.

All these sectors are opposed to socialism. They are enemies of the revolution and the people. Their cheers for socialism are the mask behind which they sabotage socialism. Today, as in the past, they prefer to attack it.

CSO: 3010

DOCTOR REFUTES ORTEGA SAAVEDRA'S CHARGES

PA030324 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 29 Nov 79 pp 1, 8 PA

[Excerpt] Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra made strong accusations against Dr Sergio Prado--member of the Federation of Health Workers (FETSALUD) and deputy director of the Bertha Calderon Hospital (formerly the Western Hospital)--at the Manolo Morales Hospital (formerly the Eastern Hospital) Sunday.

Our reporters interviewed Doctor Prado yesterday about his opinion of the matter.

[Question] Companero Prado, I imagine you already know about the accusations made by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the Manolo Morales Hospital Sunday. What can you tell us about that?

[Answer] In the first place, some friends of mine have told me what Commander Ortega Saavedra said at the Manolo Morales Hospital on Sunday. I am surprised to see that he made the accusations when I was not there so I could have given him a satisfactory explanation. I am also surprised to see that in a debate where certain different viewpoints and ideologies exist, he would resort to "twisted" charges because I understand that using such a method falls under the practice of rightists and not under the image we had of a revolutionary leader like Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

[Question] One of the things Ortega Saavedra said was that you had been an strikebreaker in the strike declared by FETSALUD in 1974. Is this true?

[Answer] I want to explain to Commander Ortega Saavedra that the rank and file doctors in the hospitals throughout the country did not participate in the strike. I was working as a rank and file specialist at the Velez Hospital and I was no exception. If I was a strikebreaker, then the rest of the specialists who did not participate in the strike should also be called strikebreakers.

[Question] Ortega Saavedra also charged that you have never done anything for the Nicaraguan revolution and that you are now trying to pass yourself off as the top FETSALUD leader. Is this true,

[Answer] First I want to explain that I am not trying to pass myself off as the top FETSALUD leader; I am only one member of it and I am a Nicaraguan who speaks and states his views protected by my rights as a citizen, and not under the tolerance of generosity of any organization or leader of this process.

NICARAGUA

CST ANSWERS CHARGES MADE BY PROIMPERIALIST CUS

PA050328 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Dec 79 PA

[Communique issued by the Jose Benito Escobar Sandinist Workers Central to the Nicaraguan workers and people, read by Companero Ivan Garcia--presumably live]

[Excerpts] The Sandinist Workers Central hereby addresses the workers and people in general, in reply to the misleading and slanderous campaign unleashed by the so-called Confederation of Unity of Trade Unions [CUS]. We refer specifically to the communique issued by that organization, published in LA PRENSA on 29 November [as heard] in which it makes several charges aimed at distorting the image of our revolution, which could give an excuse to our local and foreign enemies to carry out their counter-revolutionary activities,

In the first place we must point to the CUS connection with the pro-imperialist currents of the labor movement. This is easily confirmed since it admits it is supported by the regional Inter-American Labor Organization [ORIT] and CIOSL [International Confederation of Free Unions]. Everybody knows these organizations respond to the interests of the American institute of free labor development, an instrument of yankee imperialism to subject the workers ideologically and to reconcile their interests with those of the big monopolies. It is also a well-known fact that the CUS was engaged in pro-Somozist politics during the dictatorship; that it was only at the very last minute, when the fall of the regime was imminent in view of the strong advance of the mass movements, that it assumed a meek stand of opposition to the regime, while still maintaining its proimperialist position.

That is why their claims of having represented the workers with courage, honesty and responsibility, are absurd. Despite their confession of their connections with ORIT and CIOSL, they claim that their independent position has triggered "attacks and death threats against us."

It is a known fact that they do not maintain independent positions; they are aligned with yankee imperialism. Besides, their claim they are receiving death threats to prevent them from carrying out their activities is ridiculous. The fact they are able to voice this type of complaint clearly shows they enjoy freedom to do so.

This should not mean that in the name political pluralism and free democratic play, they should be free to engage in counterrevolutionary and proimperialist politics. This is not the freedom for which 50,000 Nicaraguans shed their blood in the struggle against the dictatorship.

CSO: 3010

NICARAGUA

'LA PRENSA' PROTESTS HARASSMENT BY CDS, POLICE

PA022322 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Nov 79 pp 1, 12 PA

[Text] With an attitude as lamentable as it is incomprehensible, the Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS] of the capital have been engaged for the past several weeks in a campaign of harassment of this newspaper, specifically boycotting the purchase of LA PRENSA in this area.

It is only fair to admit, however, that this pernicious campaign, which is an open attack on the economic interests of this newspaper and of those who work on it, is not being waged by all the COS. However, since an appreciable number of them are participating in this boycott, we are forced to comment.

In effect this campaign is irrational and absurd, since it is directed against a communications organ which has politically manifested and demonstrated its full support for the process of profound changes we are experiencing and has received public recognition from several commanders of the revolution, who have even described us as friends.

The foregoing means that unthinking or simply irresponsible individuals who do not understand the full political magnitude and procedural implications of the Sandinist revolution are the sole authors of this capricious campaign.

On this occasion we must also note a similar harassment of our newsboys, harassment which has been taken to such extremes that several of them have been detained for hours by the Sandinist police, as occurred in the past during the Somozist era.

In view of the above and with the knowledge that the leaders of the revolution are in no way involved in any of this, we hereby voice our most vigorous civic protest to the civilian and military authorities of our government, because this is simply not the treatment deserved by a newspaper such as this one, which is diametrically immersed [as published] in the best destiny of our people and which participates aggressively in the revolutionary process.

Finally, we consider it opportune to establish once and for all, in view of the thoughtless beliefs of those members of the COS or of other sectors who are trying to harm us, that LA PRENSA's policy is one of obvious support for our revolution, that is, it provides the critical support demanded by the political process which we are experiencing.

Those who fail to understand this are not only fooling themselves, but are contributing absurdly to creation of the problems and divisions which exist only in their misguided minds.

CSO: 3010

NICARAGUA

MILITARY PROSECUTOR INVESTIGATES ARRESTS IN JINOTEGA

PA050400 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Dec 79 PA

[Text] The military prosecutor will be firm with all members of our army who are not in line with the discipline, responsibility and respect they should display in their actions. All complaints or accusations filed against the military of our revolution will be reviewed by our military prosecutor. There are no privileges and no friends. The law is equal for all. Numerous cases have been brought before military prosecutor Augusto Montealegre. They concern abuse of authority, especially in the departments. One of these cases occurred in Jinotega, where a group of militiamen arrested a large group of people arbitrarily. The case is explained by companero Montealegre, the military prosecutor.

[Begin Montealegre recording] About 2 weeks ago we were informed that arrests were being made in the city of Jinotega. The complaint stated that companeros of the army and of the police were arbitrarily arresting large numbers of citizens. This caused great unrest among the people. Therefore, we proceeded to go to the city of Jinotega and investigate the problem.

In effect, there had been somewhat arbitrary mass arrests of persons accused of being Somozists by some of our companeros. An investigation team was set up by a member of the brigade of that military region, a delegate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and a representative of the prosecutor's office to determine who should be released or remain under arrest.

Approximately 80 citizens from Jinotega were under arrest. About 65 were released for lack of evidence and about 15 remained under arrest as the result of conclusive evidence showing they were members of the Somozist National Guard, paramilitary groups, or members of the notorious Mano Blanca, created by dictator Somoza.

Later, we investigated where the arrests had taken place and where the arrest orders had been issued. It was determined that some members of the General Staff were to blame for the arbitrary measures taken. [end recording]

'LA PRENSA' WRITER VIEWS BONUS DECREE

PA052332 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Dec 79 p 2 PA

[Article by Jaime Chamorro C." "Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right"]

[Text] The decree limiting the 13th-month bonus has elicited a reaction of displeasure in many sectors, which feel their interests are being hurt. It has been said this represents a confiscation of salaries that have already been earned, that the workers had already obligated this money, and so forth...but reasons have also been given in favor of this measure [which speaks of] a revolutionary spirit of solidarity with the thousands of unemployed people for whom new sources of employment will be created with the fund generated by this measure. It also will help curb inflation and so forth....

One fact has not been mentioned: The country's economy is in no condition to pay 3 months of salaries for which there has been no work and, therefore, have not generated production (2 months of back pay and 1 13th-month bonus). From this one must conclude the decree limiting the 13th-month bonus was a necessary measure, but that the measure on back wages was really self-defeating. Economically, it depressed production and restricted many sources of employment which could not get going, thus limiting permanent job opportunities. What the government won politically through that decree, it has now lost many times over by decreasing the limitation of the 13th-month bonus.

Those workers and laborers who have been affected should think the 2 months they did not work, but for which they got paid, compensate for the 13th month bonus they had earned but is now being taken away from them.

From this we conclude that the decree on back salaries--a measure adopted hastily taking only its popularity into account without conducting the necessary studies or analyzing its consequences--was a mistake. As a result of this, an unpopular measure now has to be adopted, which leads us to believe that our rulers are maturing, since as a general rule the best measures are not always the most popular ones, even if this sounds contradictory.

It is not the same thing to release communiques from someplace in Nicaragua as it is to issue decrees from the House of Government.

CHAMORRO JR. WARNS AGAINST 'DOCTRINAIRE' ATTITUDES

PA052241 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Dec 79 p 2 PA

[Article by Pedro J. Chamorro: "Idolatry and Revolution, Conformity and Involvement"]

[Text] I agreed with many paragraphs of the bishops' recent pastoral letter, but the paragraph warning about the creation of false idols particularly caught my attention.

I say this because many people think joining the revolutionary process is submitting to a new idol. If someone rightly or wrongly criticizes the process, the softest epithet used to refer to him is "he does not understand the process." Otherwise, he is called "counterrevolutionary," told he defends "his own interests or he is reactionary and perhaps even pro-Somoza." The worst thing is that people explore other people's pasts for evidence of dissidence or criticism but do not search their own past for explanations of their submissiveness.

I am aware that one must join the revolutionary process, but he does have to conform to it like a leaf swept along by a river current. One must be part of the stream without losing his dignity or intelligence and without creating a new idol called "process."

As Paulo Freire put it in his book "Education as a Practice of Freedom," "conformity requires a minimum of criticism." On the contrary, involvement requires a maximum of reasoning and awareness. This is the characteristic behavior in flexible, democratic regimes. "Man is not involved when he adjusts or conforms. On the contrary, he conforms to what is expected of him. The frame of mind created under these circumstances is rigidly authoritarian and uncritical."

Fortunately, our revolutionary leaders are aware of the advantage of being criticized. Tomas Borge recently issued an honest and profound self-criticism. Also, the Sandinist television network finally aired some criticism when it carried the debate between Commander Bayardo Arce and a large group of the Federation of Health Workers at Tetel. BARRICADA is showing signs of seeing the gray areas. Commander Jaime Wheelock admitted

that the "backpay" action was detrimental to the national economy, and Sandinist People's Army spokesman Roberto Sanchez admitted that compas [presumably short for compañeros] had demolished some vehicles to the point that many were beyond repair.

All this is good, positive and encouraging. I know the leadership of our revolution is aware of criticism, and things will be even better when it is not considered bad or immature to criticize before we encounter serious problems or before damage is done. Things will also be better when "the doctrinaire elements" understand their own revolution better. They think the revolution is so much "their" own doing that anybody who does not think exactly as they do is against them.

No sir. I can be opposed to a friend driving while drunk. In fact, I can even have an argument with him about it. But I am not against him. I am looking out for him.

Thus, I can favor this revolutionary process but I can oppose Sandinist defense committees with unofficial state functions or the damaging of people's vehicles. I can also oppose the demographic problem that continues to affect the country. I can favor less bureaucracy and greater efficiency in issuing travel permits [tarjetas de circulacion] and drivers' licenses, for instance. But I can oppose footdragging as a way to look out for the revolution. In sum, I can dissent many times and yet feel a part of the revolutionary process because involvement does not entail conformity, let alone emasculation.

Surely nobody wants all his children to be clones, unless he thinks he is perfect or unless we have a new idol.

CSO: 3010

NICARAGUA

EPS SEMINAR OPENS IN MANAGUA

PA020206 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Nov 79 pp 1, 8 PA

[Text] The Oscar Perez Cassar training seminar for Sandinist People's Army (EPS) members opened yesterday at the Oscar Turcios School. EPS Commander in Chief Humberto Ortega and Companero Marcos Valle, who is responsible for the EPS cultural section, attended the opening ceremony. The seminar will last 4 days and includes five conferences and two lectures.

Basic Sandinist Readings

The book "Basic Sandinist Readings," which explains the political line of our vanguard and revolution to our combatant brothers, was distributed at the seminar to be used as the study text. Marcos Valle told those in attendance that the book has been written in such a way that it can be studied either collectively or individually. "This will enable militants of our vanguard far from the capital to achieve a better understanding of our revolutionary process."

Addressing those present, Commander Humberto Ortega stressed that the victory over Somozism, reaction and imperialism has shown us that the most important aspect of our victory lay with the justness of our struggle.

"In view of a lack of war materiel and economic potential similar to that of Somozism, our major weapon was the profound combative morale of our people and their vanguard, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN)."

Nevertheless, he continued, today we are faced with an even more difficult enemy--the economic crisis and underdevelopment we inherited from Somozism. To this we must add more than 100 years of imperialist exploitation and domination.

He added that internal and external reactionary forces will try to divert the Sandinist and revolutionary contents of our process through what is known as ideological diversionism. The objective of those forces, enemies of our people, is to try to weaken our vanguard's strength in order to attack our revolution more directly and brazenly later, he said.

Persuasion, Patience and Understanding

According to the Sandinist leader, the EPS plays an important role in the defense of our conquests, the fulfillment of our program and the implementation of the political, social and economic goals that will lead to the creation of a society of free men. He said the companeros' work in the cultural-political section is fundamental and that due to its complexity it should be carried out with persuasion, understanding and patience because the fruit of their work must guarantee a pure and crystal-clear army.

He also said one must not limit oneself to theoretical knowledge but must move into the realm of our reality, customs and traditions. He added that we must know our history because one of the things Somoziism concealed is the shameful fact that more than 50,000 people died as a result of foreign intervention long before Sandino waged his nationalist and anti-imperialist struggle.

Revolutionary Dario

He then said bourgeois history has presented us with a Ruben Dario who wrote romantic poetry. However, it has never shown us the master's revolutionary poems, such as the one entitled "Por Que," one of Dario's most brilliant works, impregnated with an insurrectional character.

It is not enough, Humberto Ortega insisted, to dominate the techniques. It is also necessary to dominate our political and socioeconomic realities and to fight our own weaknesses everyday.

He said we must realize that we have emerged from a putrid system marked by oppression that we cannot ignore because we are part of the people. Nevertheless, he added, we must not despair, we must go from the simple to the complex. "We must be bold without being liberal or anarchical and prudent without being conservative."

Our People, Anxious to Learn

The commander of the revolution recalled Oscar Perez Cassar, stressing that through his work of strengthening the Sandinist cause conscientiously and with conviction this valuable Sandinist brother made our victory possible. He indicated that one way of helping overcome our weaknesses is to develop a critical and vigilant attitude and to take the revolutionary line of our vanguard and the national reconstruction program of our government junta to all parts of the country.

In conclusion, he said the task lying ahead is not simple because Somoziism left us a backward people. Nonetheless, he said, it will not be so difficult because our people are revolutionary and anxious to learn.

FSLN, Defender of the Exploited

After the opening of the seminar we talked with several of the companeros who are attending. We asked Edgard Valerio what had led him to enroll in the army. He told us that his most profound motivation had been the way in which our people were being subjected, tortured and exploited by Somozism, the traitorous bourgeoisie and imperialism. "I tried to seek a vanguard that would fight for that exploited class and the FSLN met all the prerequisites."

We then asked Carolina Chavarria how she feels in the face of the serious responsibility she has assumed. "We are aware we cannot lose sight of the trust our people have put in us. The task of giving the army a political and cultural formation will include our insistence on a line of close and permanent friendship with our people, regardless of sacrifice. This motivates us to become better every day," the companera concludes.

CSO: 3010

JUNTA MEMBERS PRAISE PASTORAL LETTER

PA010338 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Nov 79 pp 1, 6 PA

[Excerpt] Today more than ever the Catholic Church is committed to our Sandinist peoples revolution. That is the conclusion reached by the panelists at a round table on the most recent pastoral letter, held at the Central American University's Neysi Rios Auditorium. The panelists were Miguel D'Escoto, Sergio Ramirez, Roberto Gutierrez and Edgardo Garcia. Francisco Lacayo acted as moderator.

D'Escoto began by noting that the document is of great importance for the Nicaraguan and Latin American church. "The bishops have understood the motivations that led our people to their heroic struggle and have identified with them," the companero said,

"This pastoral letter reflects the happiness and hope of an entire people," Father D'Escoto indicated. "According to the bishops, the purpose of this letter is to encourage all those christians who participated in the insurrection and who are currently participating in the consolidation of the revolution."

"The church admits that it has not always acted well toward our people," the companero continued. "A church that does not echo the thirst for justice and which, for fear of reprisal, does not adopt the positions which faith and fraternity demand, stops being christian. But our church has experienced a frank christian process."

"It seems to me that the part that refers to socialism is important because the church explains what true socialism is and supports it because it coincides with our goals. The rejection of the capitalist path to development is important also. Unfortunately, this is something we are not used to hearing, because in many parts of the world the church has remained silent and has even allowed it to be thought possible to be both christian and capitalist," D'Escoto said.

Companero Sergio Ramirez for his part said it is important to focus on the document's humanistic contents and its concept of man. "I say this because this concept is the true connection between the Sandinist peoples revolution

and its thought and the thoughts expressed by the church hierarchy," the companero commented. "This humanistic concept implies the full development of man within a just society which cannot be achieved without first rescuing man from the unjust structures. When we speak of man, it is not as an abstract concept, but as one made of flesh and blood, the true Nicaraguan man who has been traditionally ignored, forgotten, humiliated and exploited; in short, the man for whom the Sandinist peoples revolution was fought," said Ramirez.

"In Nicaragua we clearly have the interests of a majority that has nothing and the interests of a minority which has everything. Here the pastoral letter specifically asks the latter to forget their individual interests and share in the interests of the majority, which are the truly humanistic interests," Companero Ramirez added.

CSO: 3010

UNION LEADER NOTES GROWTH OF UNION SINCE REVOLUTION

PA020020 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Nov 79 p 10 PA

[Text] Amadeo Vanegas, leader of the Union of Nicaraguan Workers (CTN), has told LA PRENSA that his organization has grown substantially in membership as well as in affiliated organizations and now has a membership of approximately 50,000. This increase, the labor leader said, has been noted since the triumph of the revolution that ended the Somoza dictatorship.

Vanegas said the CTN now has 100 affiliated labor unions as compared with 18 prior to the insurrection. Vanegas said the greatest consolidation and growth has been in the areas of health, nutrition and rural organizations.

In addition, a large number of labor unions in various fields are preparing to hold a convention at which they will establish their own federation that will later become affiliated with the CTN, Vanegas said. He added that by the close of 1979 the CTN will include five professional federations that will encompass all the aforementioned organizations and will represent 50,000 members.

Problems

Vanegas said that in the course of their activities designed to achieve an autonomous and independent labor movement the CTN leaders have encountered many obstacles. Among these obstacles are the sectarianism of those who seek to hinder the exercise of the freedom to organize, the elimination of the leaders of the board of directors of unions at certain labor centers--particularly in the area of health--and excessive pressure on rural sectors, where CTN activists have often been arrested and subjected to intensive and prolonged interrogations.

Vanegas said that peasant leaders who have been arrested while performing their labor duties have been told by the military authorities that they should join the official organization because there is going to be a single labor central in Nicaragua.

The Meaning of the Single Central

The LA PRENSA newsman asked Vanegas what a single central means to the workers and what benefits it implies. The labor leader replied: "A single central is beneficial to the working class only as long as it remains autonomous and independent of political parties, patrons and the government."

Vanegas added: "When this principle of autonomy and independence is not respected and there is an attempt to impose unity in a manner that is alien to the working class, this unity will be detrimental to the interests of the workers because they will be exposed to political and ideological manipulation by persons who are not members of the working class."

In conclusion, the labor leader said the single workers central should be based on a process of united action for the defense of the revolutionary process. However, it should be forged from the bottom to the top, that is, "beginning with the interests of the rank and file workers."

CSO: 3010

DORA TELLEZ ASSAILS BUREAUCRACY, OPPORTUNISM

PA301556 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 79 PA

[Statement by Dora Maria Tellez, political secretary of the Popular Organization Committee, during an interview; date, place not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin Tellez recording] Bureaucracy is very simple to explain.

There are more than 100 unnecessary offices. Bureaucracy is evident when you go to a ministry or private enterprise--the private sector also has a large bureaucracy--and you have to see two, three or five people for a simple transaction.

Opportunism becomes evident in many ways. It ranges from a person who takes advantage of the revolution because he was a member, supporter, combatant and so forth, to the Somozist opportunism which was a barefaced and shameless attitude. There is also the current type of opportunism revealed by an attitude of wanting to take advantage of the general achievements of the revolution for personal interests. There are opportunists who use the moral authority conferred upon them by Sandinism to achieve personal goals. Opportunism is trying to get a job with only a recommendation letter. There are thousands of such examples which could be classified as opportunism.

The abuse of authority is even more common. Everybody knows this. It occurs when army companeros abuse the authority given them by a uniform. However, the army companeros are not the only ones. There are police companeros and state employees who abuse their authority. Many of them mistreat the people. This is evident everywhere. Of course, the revolution was able to eliminate the Somozist principle of authority which was a false principle based on force. However, it has not been able to eliminate the (?lack of) respect among the citizens, persons and residents of the nation. This principle of respect is precisely what will prevent the abuse of authority. Each person who knows his duties is aware of how far he can go. A policeman cannot dictate the laws, but a prosecutor, on the other hand, cannot serve as a traffic policeman. This means every person has his own duties that should be carried out accordingly in order to prevent abuses of authority. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

FSLN LEADERS, REGIONAL EDUCATORS, STUDENTS MEET

PA022254 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Nov 79 p 7 FA

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army yesterday noted the differences between a people's army and an occupation army such as the Somozists. This was discussed during a meeting with Central American rectors, deputy rectors and student leaders. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange ideas and strengthen ties of friendship.

The fraternal meeting began in the former bunker [now known as El Chipote] and continued at the army's general headquarters, where commanders of the revolution Humberto Ortega and Luis Carrion participated.

Military dictatorships have always seen universities and students as enemies because the latter question the repressive methods that dictatorships use against their people to maintain the majority in ignorance and to keep these majorities from claiming their rights.

Now that Nicaragua is experiencing a revolutionary process and the army is actually the people in arms, university leaders are sharing their experiences and studying problems that affect our sister republics to find solutions.

During the fraternal dialog the members of our national leadership and the Central American University leaders discussed many subjects. The visitors asked about the characteristics of our process. The army in turn asked them about the advances and solutions their countries are finding for the difficulties they are going through.

After the meeting, the visitors, journalists and army members went to the Montelimar farm, where they spoke with the artillery companeros. There we talked to Seferino Sanchez, deputy rector of the University of Panama.

He told us that EDUCA [as published] was created approximately 25 years ago, that the confederation meets every 2 years and that this is the first time they have met in Nicaragua.

He said the confederation has always been aware of the Nicaraguan process and has supported and encouraged it. "We believe in it and we hope it will be consolidated," Sanchez stated.

Regarding problems in education at the universities of the Isthmus, Sanchez said the population explosion and the just aspirations of the young people to study and improve themselves create a crisis that, for economic reasons and lack of government support, keeps the students from securing the best education.

Regarding the conflict created by isolated elements in the Honduran army who want to provoke our government, Sanchez said there are no conflicts between the people because they want peace and democratic and social progress.

We also spoke with Mario Noguera, student leader of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAM), who introduced the representatives visiting us: the president of the Federation of Central American University Students (FEUCA)--who is from Honduras, delegates from the National Association of Students of El Salvador, members of the Federation of Panamanian Students, a companera from the Association of Students of Guatemala, a companero from the Federation of University Students of Costa Rica and another from the University Center of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua.

One of the objectives of the meeting, which ended on 23 November, was to revise the agreements reached during the meeting held on 2 October 1979 in Panama. Another objective was to become aware of the political, economic and social situation in Central America.

The situation in Puerto Rico was discussed. Preparations for the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the creation of Guatemala's San Carlos University and the celebration of the 2d Congress of the Central American Youths and Students--to be held on 19 July 1970 [as published] in our country--were also discussed.

Companero Mario said that during the meeting of CSUCA [as published], the participants discussed the budget and the need for increasing the printing of books. A committee was created to study the reasons for the alarming deficit of \$80,000 by the university press.

Mario Noguera said that for the past 2 years Nicaragua had not participated in a FEUCA meeting because of the Somozist repression of students.

Juan Almendarez, rector of the University of Honduras, told us that solidarity between the people of Honduras and Nicaragua has a long history.

He maintained that all Central Americans must struggle so that foreign interests such as the transnationals do not use us. He added that the struggle of our nations for liberation and better living conditions cannot be ignored.

Juan Almendarez emphasized that the Nicaraguan victory has taught Central America and the world that patriotic and democratic movements are necessary for Latin America.

"We believe Central America is living in a historic moment of great development and advance," he stated. Referring to his impressions of our country, he said the thing that caught his attention most is the humbleness and great hospitality of our leaders and people.

He also mentioned the support our vanguard has given to tasks such as education, and pointed to the literacy campaign and our free higher education.

Concluding, Almendarez announced that the meeting decided to contribute in every way possible to satisfying the needs of our Honduran brothers affected by floods.

CSO: 3010

ST. KITTS

BRIEFS

NEVIS ELECTIONS CONTESTED--Saint Kitts-Nevis Labor Party today named its nine candidates to contest the December 6 local government election in the sister island of Nevis. The nine [word indistinct] are presently held by the opposition Nevis Referendum Party. The Labor Party said in an announcement today that it will be using the symbol of the hand against that of the hat which would be used by the opposition party. [Text] [FL012019 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Dec 79 FL]

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